

January 14, 2009

Memo to: Tom Avey, Fellowship Coordinator, FGBC

From: gladys deloe

RE: **grace in ACTION usa Update for Fellowship Council**

I am grateful for your consideration of our request for Cooperating Ministry status. The following is an update of God's goodness since GiA applied to the Fellowship Council for Cooperating Ministry status in December of 2007:

- \* The Fellowship Council granted GiA provisional Cooperating Ministry status, dependent on completion of DISCOVERING Life Skills section of the curriculum and having an exhibit at the 2008 FGBC conference

- \* The DISCOVERING Life Skills section of the curriculum, for children ages 5 - 8, was completed.

- \* In April, GiA filed for a H.O.P.E. (**Help Overcome Poverty's Effects**) Grant from KCCF (Kosciusko County Community Foundation). We received a grant of \$8200 to publish and promote the curriculum. From that gift, displays and brochures were designed and produced; resource materials were purchased, and curriculum books printed.

- \* GiA received its Indiana Sales Tax Exemption Certification.

- \* In July, I attended FGBC conference to host a GiA exhibit. More than 30 signed up at our display, indicating a strong interest in using the curriculum. I also presented the curriculum to the Women of Grace in one of their conference sessions. The most significant occurrence at conference was Dave Atkins asking to use the curriculum to teach the Asia's Hope orphans in Thailand and Cambodia. I sent him the text which he had translated into Thai and Khmer. He was going to train his staff to teach it to the children. I was humbled by this amazing experience, and I give the Lord all the praise and glory! It also opened my mind to the potential of using the lessons overseas, which I had not thought of doing.

- \* In August, GiA filed for a second grant, given by REMC through KCCF, to help fund the pilot programs. An amount of \$2000 was granted for this purpose. My home church, WLGB, gave GiA a \$600 gift in the fall. This will be used to help fund the pilot programs. They are also putting GiA in the church mission budget, on an "in and out" basis this year. We are grateful for this.

- \* I continue to do research and write the next two sections of the Life Skills curriculum. They are titled, ACHIEVING Life Skills, for 9-12 year olds, and LEADING Life Skills for teens. Both are partially complete. It is my goal to complete and have them published before May.

- \* This fall I attended a local, two-day, Bridges Out of Poverty workshop, sponsored by KCCF. Author and presenter, Philip DeVol, is an associate of Ruby Payne, who is widely acclaimed for her pioneer work, A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Both are excellent resources, but neither address the need to teach Life Skills to the children of poverty in order to eventuate lasting change.

- \* I have written materials for training Volunteer Teachers, and created public presentations for use in speaking to church and community groups about the Life Skills curriculum. I have also begun arrangements for

pilot programs in three county elementary schools. In November, I began recruiting volunteer teachers for the pilot programs. I have enlisted the help of two volunteers to help with recruiting, and I am hoping that one of them will take on the oversight of the pilot programs.

\* When the next sections of the curriculum are complete and published, I will begin to concentrate on making the curriculum available by as many means and in as many places as possible.

Personal comments:

\* My biggest frustration has been to find an illustrator and layout person who would complete the job. We are way behind schedule because of this, but it is beginning to look like it will be done soon. **Please pray with me for this.**

\* I am eager to find others with a heart for the poor who will take leadership in GiA ministries. There's much to be done when God provides the leaders.

\* I have been amazed to discover that very little has been written from a faith-based perspective to teach Life Skills to children from underprivileged and unchurched homes ~e.g., Ken Taylor's book, written to teach children how to make right choices, assumes the child is being raised in a Christian home, with two loving parents who spend time teaching the child. "Train up a child..." works best in that environment. But, as our brochure asks, "**What if** that child is being raised in a pagan home, where abuse is an every day occurrence? **What if** the child's parents have made wrong choices all their lives? **What if** the child is an orphan?"

Because we are exploring new territory, there is much to learn and I'm certain changes will be necessary. But we see God's hand in every step and will continue to follow His leading as long as He directs and enables.