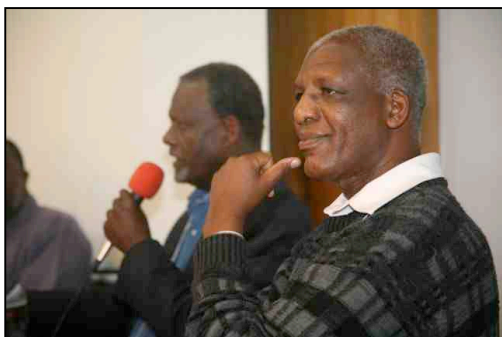


Seminary leaders from Europe and the Middle East to gather in Serbia

A week from now, beginning on Tuesday, 29 June, about 40 leaders from seminaries located in Eastern Europe and the Middle East / North Africa will converge on Novi Sad, Serbia, to discuss how they can better provide leadership training for the churches their seminaries serve. This will be our third Institute for Excellence in 2010.

Participants in the first two Institutes (in Ecuador and Nairobi) provided quite positive feedback. The regional church leaders we have invited to each Institute have contributed significantly and substantially to our conversations, and brought credibility and realism to the outcomes we have achieved. Pray for the Lord's hand once again to be in our midst during this third Institute of the year (out of the seven we have planned).



John Gichinga, former pastor of the influential Nairobi Baptist Church, was one of the church leaders participating in our Institute for East and Southern Africa.



Each year Scott's Overseas Council colleagues from around the world gather to strategize. Dr Ashish Chripal (India) and Josué Fernandez (Argentina) will be joining this conversation in July.

In mid-July Scott will be involved with the OC overseas team as we strategize and plan for 2011. Pray with us as we seek the Lord's guidance in how to effectively come alongside the 100 seminaries we partner with around the globe. Pray that the curriculum we plan for next year's Institute for Excellence will contribute to more useful training of Christian leaders.

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Cunningham eNews is a periodic news communication for prayer and information for the friends and ministry partners of Scott and Beth Cunningham, serving with SIM and Overseas Council.



A new chapter



We have the privilege of announcing the marriage of Micah and Elizabeth Fulmer. The two planned a worship-filled, God-honoring wedding witnessed in the Fulmer's church in Dallas by the extended families and a few close friends. Our family had a wonderful week together preparing and celebrating with Marc coming from Atlanta and Scottie from Bolivia.

We have talked several times about what a mercy it is of the Lord to have a daughter-in-love (to use the delightful turn of phrase used by one of my colleagues) who loves the Lord, was raised by parents who share our Christian commitments, and with Micah will be seeking the Lord's direction for their lives in establishing a family founded on Christ. Of course, this is what we have been praying ever since Micah was entrusted to us 24 years ago. But, it really is God's gracious gift to us in providing such a wonderful answer to these prayers.

What we now know about Christianity in Africa

One of the objectives of this year's Institute for Excellence has been to motivate seminaries to study their contexts in order to ensure the training they offer responds to the real needs in the church. A new and definitive study has just been published, focusing on Christianity and Islam in Africa. We're bringing this to the attention of all of our African seminary leaders, and, if you are at all interested in learning more about the challenges of the African Church, you will be fascinated by this enlightening study.

A summary of the study, by the Pew Forum, can be found here:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1564/islam-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa-survey>

"About half of Chad's [a West African country] Christians practice polygamy, far more than Christians or Muslims elsewhere in Africa. Chadian Christians also score high in support of extramarital sex (31%) and prostitution (12%)."

How would awareness of this aspect of the Chadian church influence the training of church leaders in that context? That's the kind of question we are trying to help our seminary leaders ask and answer in this year's Institute.

Scott and Beth Cunningham

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