

HNGR News

a publication of the human needs and global resources program at wheaton college

Welcoming New HNGR Staff

With Paul on a much-deserved sabbatical and Sarah Jane preparing to start her MFA in Alaska, we are pleased to welcome some new additions to the HNGR staff!

Steve Offutt **Interim HNGR Director**

Steve Offutt is joining our HNGR office after teaching in Eastern University's School for Leadership & Development and serving as a Fellow at Notre Dame's Center for the Study of Religion & Society. He received his B.A. in Political Science (Wheaton 1995), his M.A. in International Relations (SAIS-Johns Hopkins University 2000) and his PhD in Sociology (Boston University 2008). Steve has worked for Christian development and missions organizations in Central America and Southern Africa. He and his wife, Amy, have two small girls, Addy and Emily. Steve feels called to work at the nexus of scholarship and development, and is excited about exploring the nature and causes of poverty with students in the HNGR program, as well as considering appropriate, thoughtful Christian responses to the causes of poverty and to the poor.



Christy Schweigert **Research & Program Assistant**

An '08 HNGR alumna with her B.A. in International Relations, Christy returned from non-profit work in Bulgaria to join our office, where she enjoys staying engaged with HNGR themes and learning about the innovative development and missions projects going on around the world. She is responsible for a variety of HNGR communications and the planning of our annual symposium sponsored by John Deere. Aside from these tasks, Christy is most excited to walk alongside and encourage HNGR students on their journeys.



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

**HNGR
Homecoming
Open House
October 2
9-11 am
HNGR Office,
Schell Hall,
Lower Level**

August 2010 ed.

duke center for reconciliation

sharing a HNGR posture, sharing the gospel with the world

"HNGR teaches us to live out what we learn in embodied ways," says '04 HNGR alumna Stephanie Wheatley. For the last 2 years, Stephanie has been working at the Duke Center for Reconciliation in Durham, NC, where many HNGR alumni have found mission and purpose in the work being done to train and encourage global leaders in reconciliation.

In many ways, HNGR and the Duke Center share a similar posture in their work. The Center's mission is based on verses in II Corinthians chapter 5, in which we as Christians are commissioned to be ambassadors, to "embody" the message of Christ's reconciling of God and man, and to physically bring that gospel to the world. Chris Yoder ('04 HNGR alumnus) told us that HNGR really changed the way he thought of the gospel, from something personal and private to good news that involves the whole world's transformation. He went on to say that this message is really what drives the work at the Center as they encourage leaders across the world to share and bear the gospel of reconciliation in their own contexts.

Embodying the message of reconciliation could seem a daunting task when coming from the ivory tower at Duke's Divinity School. But, in talking with HNGR alumni who interact with the Center, Cullen Rodgers-Gates ('99) and Nate Rauh ('08), we were pleased to see that they take a rather broad definition of the term "reconciliation," in their classes, in their work outside of the Divinity School, and in their ministry. Chris Rice, co-founder of the Duke Center, is known to say that reconciliation is really never bigger than learning to love the person next to you that is difficult to love.

The Center for Reconciliation goes to great lengths to include people of various ages, ethnicities, backgrounds, experiences, and levels of education in their trainings, and to return those leaders to their places rejuvenated and better equipped to train, encourage, and lead others.

In East Africa, the Center's Great Lakes Initiative creates a space for a diverse group of leaders, old and new, to build unlikely friendships, to grow, to listen, and to learn—things many of us were fortunate to experience during our HNGR internships. In January, the Great Lakes Initiative, with other experienced partners, will be launching an intensive one-year cohort study program addressing issues of reconciliation in the East African context on a deeper level.

Similar to the projects in Africa, the US Leaders Program raises up new leaders in the States as well as nourishing those already working in the field with a chance to rest, reflect, and learn in community. Anyone interested in reconciliation is eligible and welcome to participate in the workshops being held.

The upcoming gathering, "Reconciler's Weekend," is a short and manageable way to participate in what the Center for Reconciliation is doing in the States and around the world. Reconciler's Weekend, being held September 24-25 in Durham, will engage participants with 2 speakers, one a theologian and the other a practitioner. This year's meeting will feature Asbury Theological Seminary's Professor of Church in Society, author of *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*, Christine Pohl, as well as international director of Word Made Flesh (a community of artist-activists), Chris Huertz. Several HNGR alumni have taken part in past conferences, events, and activities (Danny Arnold '07, Kendall Batten '09, Jessica Friesen '07, Nate Rauh '08, Cullen Rodgers-Gates '99, Arnila Santoso '04, Breanne Wroughton '09, Chris Yoder '04), and have been a very welcome addition to conversations there.

We in the HNGR Office are excited about what the Center for Reconciliation is doing, and hope many of you alumni will pray for and take part in their projects. To learn more about what they are doing and to get involved read Chris Rice's blog at <http://reconcilers.wordpress.com/>.



Duke Divinity School's sculpture, "Reconciliation," based on the parable of the prodigal son

intern insight

Elise Bryson ('08) interned at Freeset in Kolkata, India, doing market research and redesigning the fair trade organization's website. This excerpt is taken from her HNGR Integration Paper.

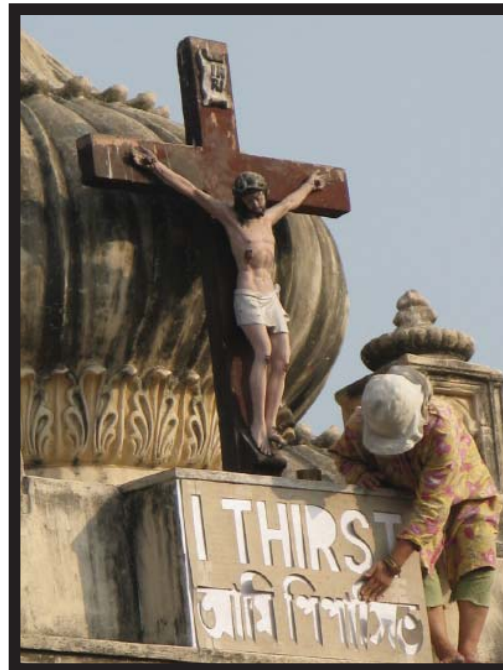
"I Thirst"

The street is dominated by two buildings -- two structures which are really two worldviews in concrete form. The Kalighat Temple is the largest Hindu temple in the city, and on its side the street is lined with men in stalls selling flowers, wedding bracelets, and images of the gods to those who would enter the temple. And, sharing its far wall, stands Mother Theresa's Home for the Dying. Its side of the street is lined with beggars, hoping to cash in from the volunteers who frequent the home.

You might never even notice it unless you look up. It blends in to the dome of the temple behind it, and trees have grown so that certain angles are blocked. Despite its enormity, the crucifix atop the home doesn't stand out. Like the hundreds of beggars who line the street now, like the millions that inhabit the city. Millions, but easy to ignore unless they catch on to your scarf and demand your attention. Like the thousands of girls kept as slaves for the pleasure of the city's men. There is a brothel not too far away from where

I stand, but it too blends in, too easy to ignore.

Under Jesus' bleeding feet there is an inscription. "Ami Pipasha." *I thirst.*



Host Details

Located in Kolkata's infamous Sonagachi District, Freeset is a social enterprise that makes fair trade organic jute bags and shirts, offering employment to women trapped in Kolkata's sex trade.

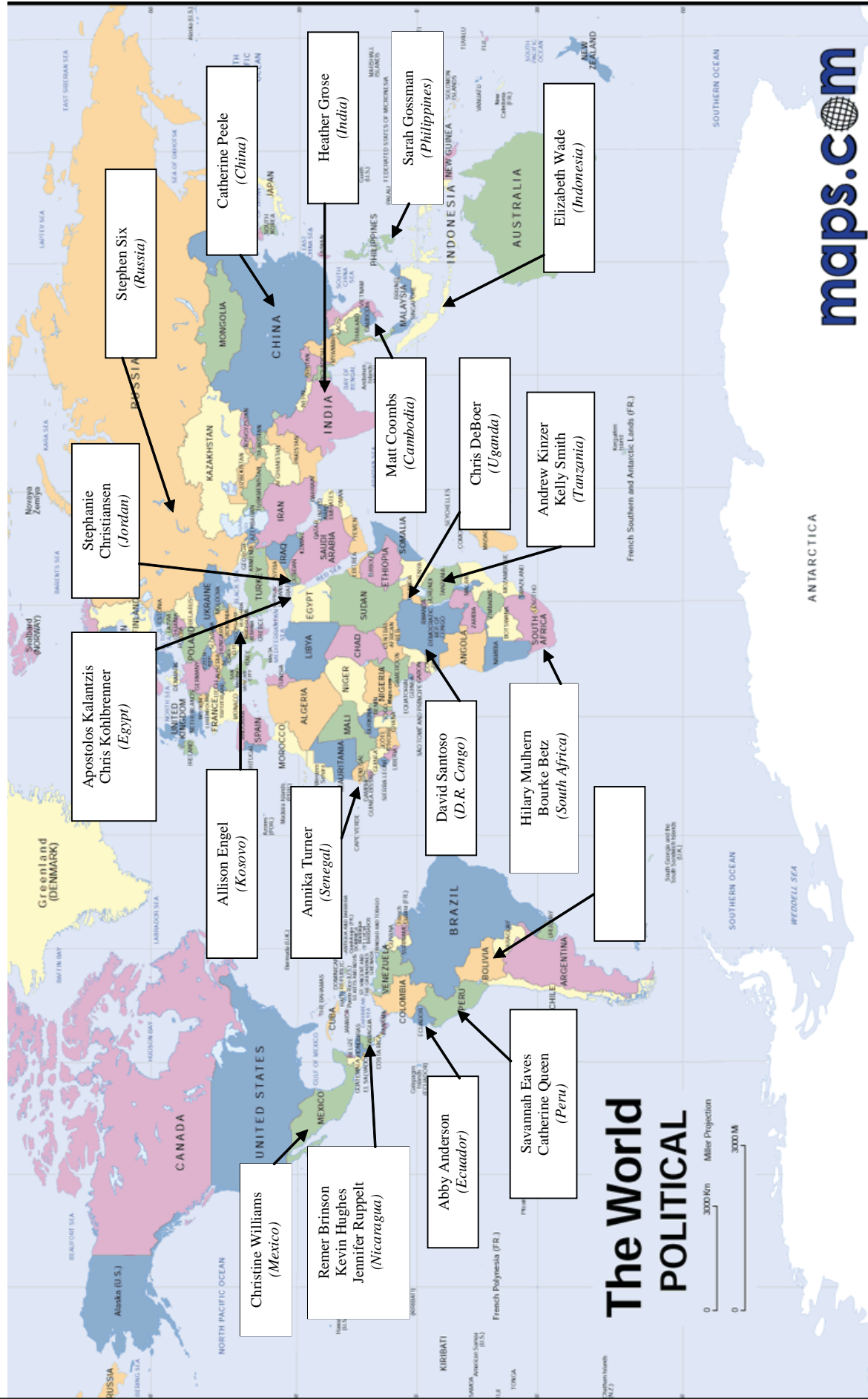
According to their mission statement, "We would like to see the 10,000 sex workers in our neighborhood empowered with the choice of leaving a profession they never chose in the first place."

2008 was the first year HNGR placed an intern with Freeset.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.freesetglobal.com/>

This is the human condition -- that for all our science and development, for all our morals and altruistic crusades, people across the globe are in dire need. We are in need of food, in need of freedom, in need of community.

In Kolkata, need screams at you from the eyes of most of its inhabitants, who make their lives and livelihoods on the streets. Mother Teresa is famous for saying that she saw Jesus in the eyes of every one of the poor she ministered to -- that it was Jesus who was dying, thirsty, hungry, in need of love. She is also famous for saying that God didn't tell us to love the world, he told us to love our neighbor. In a city of 15 million, most of whom are poor, this distinction is everything. There is a sense to which the greatest human resource any of us has is the capacity to love our neighbor.



*We invite you to remember the 2010 HNGR Interns
in prayer during their six months!*