



## Affiliations

2014 has been the year for re-affiliation with WOOMB International for the next 3 years.

We thank all our Affiliated organisations which have returned the paperwork and also for your wonderful reports which have highlighted how the Billings Ovulation Method® is continuing to be spread in all corners of the globe.

Last week the re-affiliation certificates were posted to 28 organisations who have met the requirements for re-affiliation.

There are a number of other affiliates who have been in contact with us and asked for an extension of time to complete the paperwork. Early in 2015 we hope to have this process completed.

The majority of our Affiliates also met the requirements to be granted the role of National Training and Accrediting Body and that status will appear on the certificate.

With the outreach offered in 2014 and to be continued into 2015 we hope to offer Affiliation to a number of new countries in the future.



This Newsletter will reach you as you are making your final preparations for Christmas Day and turning your thoughts to the wonder of that first Christmas and its incredible impact on the world.

As we in Australia come to the end of our working year and prepare for Christmas and our Summer holidays we look back at 2014 and can see very clearly the hand of God working through WOOMB International and its Affiliates.

So many good things have happened - there is so much hope for the future - just as there was on that first Christmas Day.

We wish all our friends a joy-filled and peaceful Christmas as you contemplate the amazing gifts we have all received and give thanks for the opportunity to share in the spreading of the good news of the Billings Ovulation Method® to couples and families.

## Extraordinary Synod of the Family

WOOMB International has been especially honoured this year by the invitation to Joan Clements, one of our Directors, to be an Auditrix at the recent Synod of Bishops at the Vatican. Joan is a very worthy representative and we are extremely proud that she was able to participate and offer an intervention to the Synod Fathers. Joan is a wonderful ambassador for the Billings Method® and is following in the footsteps of Drs. John and Lyn who attended the 1980 Synod on the Family.

Following the interventions the Synod broke into discussion groups. Each group was to submit their findings for review and possible inclusion in the final report of the Synod. Joan was asked by those responsible for her group to write their submission on natural family planning. Well done Joan! To say we are proud is an understatement.

Joan would also want to thank all of her fellow teachers and supporters who prayed for her during this time.

Joan has recently returned from further visit to Rome, where she was invited to attend a special meeting of the Pontifical Council for the Family, which is planning a Conference in Rome in January 2015. Joan presented at paper at this Seminar and once more put up a strong case for continued promotion of natural family planning as the hope for the family. WOOMB will be represented at this January Conference by Dr Mark Whitty of Ireland and Gerard Renard and Dr Caroline Terrenoir from France. Please pray for them.





[www.woombinternational.org](http://www.woombinternational.org)

## WOOMB Website

The WOOMB International website continues to be a means of communication for all those interested in our global outreach.

Joan Clements is our webmaster and she is always keen to hear of any of your activities that she can put on the website to be accessed by all who visit our site.

This year a WOOMB facebook page was developed as well as Twitter. Joan is also happy to advertise training programs so please send her details of your upcoming programs.

Reports and photos of completed programs will also be on the site so this is a perfect opportunity to get your message out to the community.

Shortly we will be putting on the WOOMB website the Directors response to The Linacre Quarterly published article on billingsMentor. As previously advised this automated charting resource does not carry WOOMB approval.



## Training Programs

When we look back over 2014 the Directors and Associate Directors have been involved in some amazing Teacher Training Programs.

### WOOMB Latinoamerica

WOOMB Latinoamerica, which comprises representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru, Uruguay, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Cuba and Mexico have been working tirelessly to ensure that the authentic Billings Ovulation Method® is spread throughout South America. Through this joint co-operation they were able to offer a Conference and concurrent Teacher Training Programs in Sao Paola, Brazil earlier this year. Our Spritual Advisor, Fr Joseph Hattie OMI and Marie Marshall and Marian Corkill were privileged to attend. One of our Associate Directors, Maria Garcia was on the organising committee for this incredible get together of Billings Ovulation Method® teachers from all over Sth America. The highlight of this experience was that the Teacher Training Program for new teachers was conducted by a number of trainers from different countries in Latin America and the message came through loud and clear that they were all speaking the same Billings language. In addition to organising the Conference and Teacher Training Programs three of the Affiliates organised Teacher Training Programs in their own countries either before or after Brazil, inviting Marie and Marian to present the programs. This was a huge undertaking by these Affiliates but their efforts were well rewarded with the enthusiasm generated and the commitment by all to share their knowledge further. Well done and congratulations to all concerned.

As a result of this initiative, teachers from Venezuela attended the Basic/Upskilling Course in Uruguay and then attended the Extension Program in Brazil. To assist them to now update all the teachers in Venezuela and to move towards affiliation with WOOMB, a team from WOOMB Latinoamerica, led by Dr Martin Tantalean from Peru will present a Teacher Training Program in Venezuela in 2015.

### Vietnam

Following the 3 year program which has seen the realisation of the dream of Dr On Lien, now living in Australia, to bring the Billings Ovulation Method® to her country of origin, the original team, consisting of On Lien, Joan Clements and Gillian Barker, were invited back to Vietnam to conduct Extension Programs for the experienced teachers. They came home singing the praises of the wonderful teachers now in many Dioceses in Vietnam. As Fr Hattie OMI would say "Yea God".

### Kenya

MaterCare International is an organisation of Catholic maternal health professionals, founded by Dr Robert Walley from Canada, with a mission to bring safe maternal care to all women, especially those in rural and poor communities. Dr Walley has been a good friend of WOOMB for many years and this year he asked WOOMB to come with him to Kenya where MaterCare is developing a maternal hospital in the rural city of Isiolo. He had received a grant to offer Natural Family Planning in Kenya and he asked that the Billings Ovulation Method® Teacher Training Program be offered in Nairobi. Marie and Marian accepted the invitation and 21 of the 26 Dioceses of Kenya were represented amongst the 62 participants. In addition there were representatives from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Uganda. We thank Dr Walley for his trust in our training programs and we have great hopes for the continued spread of the Billings Ovulation Method® throughout the country.

In addition, Fr Aidan Msafiri from Tanzania encouraged the participants to see the broader picture and the concept of a WOOMB Africa organisation was generated with enthusiasm from those present. As Fr Aidan told the group "Individually we can run faster but together we can go further". We look forward to hearing more good news from Africa as this fledgling group develops.



## Letter to Pope Francis

While in Italy our Directors were shown a letter addressed to Pope Francis from representatives from three International Colleges of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists calling on him to change Church teaching to allow for the use of contraception.

It was suggested that as an International organisation WOOMB should respond. As a result the Directors have sent a letter of support on the Church's teachings on marriage and sexuality to Pope Francis with a copy to the relevant organisations.

## WOOMB Office Holiday Closure

Billings LIFE Melbourne which houses our WOOMB Headquarters will close on Friday, 19th December and reopen on Tuesday, 20th January, 2015. Limited email access will be available over this time so we know you will understand if the response is slower than is usual.



## Training Programs (cont)

### Italy

This year marked the 5th Anniversary since the death of Dr Sr Anna Cappella and to celebrate her life the Billings team from the Sacro Cuore University in Rome offered a Conference, with the University support, with the theme: "Procreation Today: The Challenge of Natural Fertility Regulation".

This marvellous Conference which highlighted the strong influence Sr Anna had on the ethos of the University was followed by an Extension Program for the Italian Billings teachers. In addition teachers were also present from Romania, England, Spain, Slovenia and Burundi.

Marie and Marian were invited to participate in the Conference and to present the Extension Program and one of our Associate Directors, Dr Mark Whitty, was also invited to present a paper on the Pockets of Shaw at the Conference.

In addition a concurrent Basic/Upskilling Teacher Training Program was offered, conducted by Dr Elena Giacchi, to a group which included a number of new teachers from Albania. Through Focolare, an outreach had been made to Albania and Elena had travelled to that country to offer the Billings Ovulation Method®. With the assistance of a generous grant the group had been able to come to Rome to be present at the Conference and the Teacher Training Program.

As they have done previously, with the group from Romania, our Italian BOM team will now mentor this Albanian group and hopefully it will not be long before we are able to offer affiliation to a Billings organisation in Albania.

### Myanmar

Following their attendance at the WOOMB International Conference in Malaysia last year, Dr Lek-Lim Chan, a WOOMB Associate Director, has been mentoring this group by travelling to Myanmar twice this year to conduct Teacher Training Programs. With his assistance we are hopeful that this group will gain confidence and it will not be long before we can offer them affiliation with WOOMB International Ltd.

### USA, Argentina and Brazil

Dr Lek-Lim Chan also accepted the invitation from BOMA-USA to present a number of papers at their recent very successful Conference. While in the region Lek-Lim travelled to Brazil and Argentina and presented sessions to BOM teachers. We thank Lek-Lim for his generosity in giving of his time and talents to share his knowledge, particularly in how the Billings Ovulation Method® can be used as a diagnostic resource to improve women's health.

Your reports to WOOMB have clearly shown the far-reaching extent of the numerous Teacher Training Programs which are conducted by our Affiliates throughout most countries of the world. In addition the Billings Ovulation Method® Correspondence Course Teacher Training Program reaches out to those interested in training from a number of countries where currently we do not have an Affiliate. This gives us great hope for the future as the Billings Ovulation Method® continues to spread its goodness in the lives of couples and families everywhere. Dr Lyn Billings always used to remind us to "let the Method do its own magic" and to "put in good and stir".

We thank all our teachers for their continued faith in the Method and their dedication to ensuring that it is made available to all couples everywhere.

The Directors wish all our Affiliates and members of their organisations a very blessed Christmas full of the joy and peace that the babe of Bethlehem brings to the world. Please share our newsletter with your members.