



# Families on Mission

São Paulo  
March 2023



# Contents

---

Conference program	3
Conference map	4
Welcome and Introduction	5
Important conference information	6
Conference Goals and Outcomes	7
Overview of the creative thinking process	8
FlashLab writing process	10
Writing Process Diagram	11
Brokenness to Wholeness Framework	13
Children Everywhere Walking With Jesus	14
ThinkRamp	18
Blank ThinkRamp Diagram	20
Global Children's Forum (GCF)	21
GOPlay	22
GO Health & Fitness and family.fit	23
Kids Generosity Movement	24
Rede Mãos Dadas	25
My planner	26
Bible devotions (notes)	28
Notes	29
Action Steps	30

GCF, GOPlay, GO Health & Fitness, Generous Children,  
family.fit and Rede Mãos Dadas



# Conference program

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY			
TIME	March 20	March 21	March 22	March 23	March 24			
7:00-7:40	Fitness: Family.Fit or Prayer.Fit							
7:40-8:00	Free Time							
8:00-8:30	Breakfast							
8:30-9:00								
9:00-9:30	Arrivals and Registration	Worship and Devotions						
9:30-10:00								
10:00-10:30		Families on Mission (FOM)						
10:30-11:00								
11:00-11:30								
11:30-12:00								
12:00-12:30		FOM Breakout Session for Work Teams						
12:30-1:00								
1:00-1:30	LUNCH							
1:30-2:00								
2:00-2:30								
2:30-3:00	Free Time	Prayer Triplets		TOUR	Prayer Triplets			
3:00-3:30	Orientation and Welcome	FOM Teams Report Back in Plenary Session			GCF, GOPlay, FF Meetings and Generosity Group			
3:30-4:00								
4:00-4:30	Worship and Devotions	Coffee Break						
4:30-5:00		GCF, GOPlay, FF Meetings and Generosity Group						
5:00-5:30	FOM Intro Session							
5:30-6:00								
6:00-6:30								
6:30-7:00					CLOSING SESSION			
7:00-7:30	DINNER							
7:30-8:00								
8:00-8:30	Ministry Experience or Ministry Connection							
8:30-9:00								

## Conference map



1. Entrance
2. Caretaker's house
3. Farmers market
4. Garden
5. Administration house
6. Villa Mantiqueira house / rooms
7. Swimming pool
8. Villa do Sol house / rooms
9. Auditorium
10. Hotel rooms and kitchen
11. Wine deck
12. Hotel pool and deck
13. Courts





# Welcome and Introduction

---

Welcome to São Paulo! We are so glad that you have committed to being here and to the steps that follow. We're excited to share time together to pray, explore, learn and create together as we continue to seek God's Kingdom, striving to see children everywhere walking with Jesus.

The forum brings together teams from *GCF*, *GOPlay*, *GO Health & Fitness*, *Generous Children*, *family.fit* and *Rede Mãos Dadas*, as together we serve children, young people, and families with a special focus on missional families. We will also be exploring how we can build together as learning communities, incubating infectious ideas together and including a special focus on investing in younger leaders.

There has been growing momentum around the needs of families and how we can best serve them alongside children. Recent discussions have posed the challenge of how we might see millions of families around the world embracing what it means to think and act missionally. As we look at the needs around us in our world, and as we come together as Kingdom partners, could we even begin to imagine how we might see God open the way to equip 100 million missional families?

Thank you for being part of these valuable few days together. We are aware of how precious our time is and also how something special happens when we get to meet together. So, we gather with a sense of expectation for how God will use this time as we pray and explore together.



# Important conference information

---

## Wifi

Select **FAROL\_WIFI**. You will be asked to complete a simple registration form.

## Mealtimes

Please be mindful of mealtimes. The restaurant is located on the lower level.

- **Breakfast: 8 – 10am**
- **Lunch: 12 – 2pm**
- **Dinner: 7 – 9pm**

## For those staying at the Ibis

For those staying at IBIS a shuttle is provided before breakfast and one trip back after dinner. Please bring anything you may need during the day to the venue. If you need to make an additional trip to the hotel, make friends with someone who is here with their car, or see Val or Liz to help coordinate a taxi run.

## Market / store

If you forgot, or run out of, any essentials please feel free to check out the store (open 10am – 6pm).

The IBIS is located next to a shopping mall. If you wish to explore, check with hotel staff about sharing a ride with those staying at the IBIS. You will need to coordinate your own ride back. The shopping mall closes at 10pm.

## Activities

- **Pool hours:** 9am – 6pm
- **Court hours:** 7am – 10pm
- **Lake activities** (kayak, hammocks and paddle boats): 10am – 5pm

## Hairdryers

There are a few hairdryers that can be borrowed from the hotel. Please ask at the reception desk. Please ensure that you return the hairdryer to reception when you have finished using it.

## Water

The water in the room and restaurant are included. Please note the water fountain (in the big blue jug) near the auditorium is from a local water well.

# Conference Goals and Outcomes

Information on the possible working groups and initial hoped-for outcomes:

	Goals	Outcomes
1	<b>Kingdom Collaboration</b> We want to see movements and agencies who are focused on children and families to be in dialogue, and plan what we can do together that we cannot each do alone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Trust and clarity</li> <li>■ Strategic plan</li> <li>■ Increased reach / impact</li> </ul>
2	<b>Families on Mission (FOM)</b> Together we will imagine the impact of millions of families thinking and acting missionally. We will design ways to equip them, connect them, and motivate them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Clarity on definitions, challenges and strategies to equip families to be on mission locally.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Work groups</b> Out of these discussions will flow practical work groups to develop plans and practical projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A plan for each work team to continue the process after the face-to-face forum.</li> <li>■ Each team contributes content to a FOM guide.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Movement meetings</b> Each of the representative movements will have their own agenda, teams and synthesis of FOM to work through. Agenda notes for each movement are included below. (GCF, GOPlay, GO Health & Fitness, Generosity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Agenda items for each movement clarified, scoped and moved forward.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Family shapes and stages</b> Through the conference we will meet with others at a similar stage of life to wrestle with the threats and opportunities of this stage as they relate to FOM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Each team contributes content to a FOM guide.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Share stories</b> Together we will share stories of families on mission and be inspired.  <b>Pray</b> Pray for families everywhere and pray for each other in our challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Trust, joy, and celebration.</li> <li>■ A bank of stories as examples of families on mission (audio-visual and written).</li> </ul>

# Overview of the creative thinking process

## Overview

Coming to a gathering like this is exciting but also a bit frightening. You may be asking yourself:

- Will I have anything worthwhile to contribute?
- What will happen in the creative process?
- What if we all have different ideas that don't match up because we are all so diverse?

Wonderfully, this is the work of the Holy Spirit. He was our first invited guest. In fact, He planned this whole gathering. Please pray for the Spirit's continual guidance.

The creative process is very dynamic and flexible. A small team of facilitators will be guiding us through the process to explore families on mission. We will look at it from many different angles so you will be sure to make important contributions from your experience and context. Working collaboratively is exciting.

Imagine the process like this (maybe close your eyes and engage all your imagination):

***The theme of Families on Mission is like a mountain – and we want to climb it.***

We can all see the mountain from a distance, simple and distinct, but when we get up close there are many aspects to consider — many valleys and challenges. There are many ways to climb it. The facilitators will be taking us all on an adventure to climb and understand this mountain — sometimes all together and sometimes in smaller climbing parties focused on a different path. Then our job is to make different types of tools and strategies to enable others to climb and enjoy the mountain.

## Roles within a work team

Come to the gathering ready to contribute your ideas. There will be many ways we will be doing this.

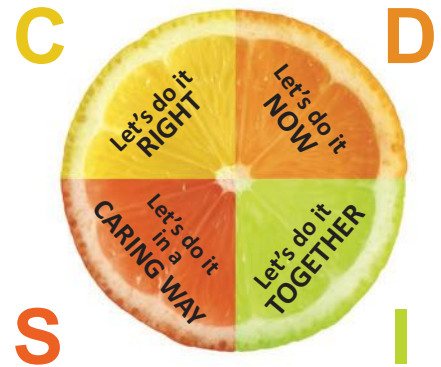
Remember to be confident but also have an attitude of humility. There will be people working in English as their second or third language. So, if you are a native English speaker be a listener first. Give time and space for many ideas from others before giving your opinions.

<b>Facilitator</b>	Clarifies the vision, purpose and audience; supports the team and facilitates the writing process towards the end goal.
<b>Ideas people and visionaries</b>	Contributes ideas to be included as content.
<b>Practitioners</b>	(These are pastors, parents, youth workers, instructors, leaders, sons and daughters etc.) Contributes ideas to be included as content. May have multiple roles such as both parent and youth worker.
<b>Writers</b>	Logically document detailed notes of key ideas shared by the ideas people, visionaries and practitioners.
<b>Editor / Finishers</b>	Works with the writer to ensure that the content flows well and to ensure the completion of the resource by checking facts, grammar, spelling, punctuation etc.



## Different perspectives and ways of working

The make-up of your team is important. Each person will bring different strengths in how they work. You will find strength as a team as all these individual strengths combine. Here is a way to see how different team members values different things according to the DISC model. All are important.



## Group writing ideas



See the 'capacity toolkits' on *Active Family Discipling*, *Bible Handling*, *Effective Facilitation*, *Intercultural Facilitation*, *Team Writing* and *Creative Process*.

These can be downloaded from:

<https://www.max7.org/en/library/capacitybuildingkits> or scan the QR code.



The tips below may also be helpful.

## Post-it note tip

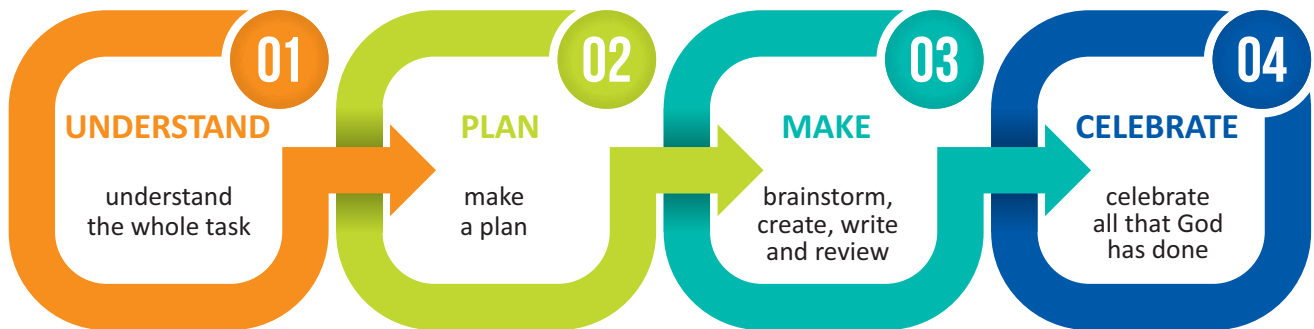
Sometimes we will be brainstorming with post-it notes. Remember to write your idea clearly and concisely with your name on it. For example:

- **UNHELPFUL:** "family money"
- **OK:** "earn money together and give it away"
- **BETTER:** "think of ways to earn money as a whole family, implement it and then decide together how it can be used for others."



# FlashLab writing process

Every work team will be starting from a different point, so each one will have different tasks to do. Some teams have no training sessions written in their broad topic, while other teams have most training sessions written. However, as we are creating new tools other than the training sessions, there will be many tasks for each team to do.



This writing process below is indicative only. Each team's facilitator will be shaping a process that will uniquely work for their team. Your team will need to:

## 1. Understand the whole task

Audit and understand the content area your team is working on. Understand how the sessions / parts fit into the bigger picture of FOM discussions and strategy.

- What new components are you making? Why?
- What is the problem you are trying to solve?
- Understand the templates and how each piece fits together.



## 2. Make a plan

As you plan ask yourselves these questions.

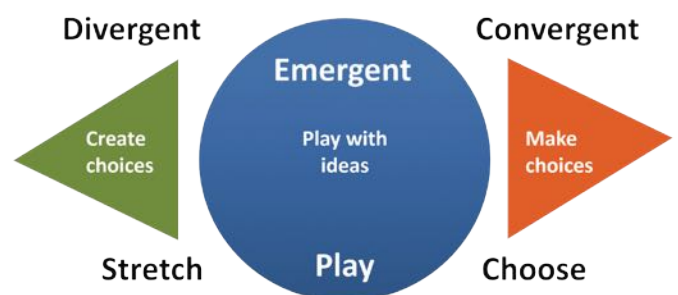
- What can we prioritize to do in this FlashLab time frame? (four days)
- What are the gaps and tasks to complete?
- What will be the teams and sub-teams? Roles?
- Who will be doing what tasks?
- How can we continue after Brasil?

## 3. Brainstorm, create, write and review

See the process of 1 to 7 *opposite*.

## 4. Celebrate all that God has done

Let's see what God can do in our midst as we labor together.





1

**Collect key ideas and content  
– Brainstorm and categorize**

Start to organize the key content for each task. Place ideas under headings.  
Find explanations, examples, illustrations, models.  
Use divergent, emergent and convergent thinking.  
Get feedback from another team and make adjustments as necessary.

2

**Throw mud at the wall  
challenge – what to say?  
Get the flow of ideas right.**

60 minute challenge to order the key ideas in a session/topic in a logical way. Deliver to other people.  
Give 2 minute explanation. Feedback.  
*Does it make sense?*  
*Does it answer these key questions?*

3

**Plan activities and opportunities  
to learn. How to say it?**

Brainstorm activities that will be engaging vehicles to carry the ideas. Place activities beside each of the key ideas of the session from step 4.  
Use STAR to help you. See Writing curriculum capacity kit.  
*Are the ideas creative and practical?*  
*Do they flow and create 'a-ha' moments?*  
*Are different elements of TREMCCR included in the session below the surface?*

4

**Write up the session  
in the template**

You will be given help to write up and store completed draft sessions.

5

**Cross-fertilize and check.**

Print the sessions and review.  
Add ideas. Reprioritize ideas.  
Get feedback. Look at it with a focus on details. Get ideas and feedback from the online team.

6

**'Live it out' ideas**

Create the 'live it out' ideas for the session as follow-up.  
The ideas will be based around: to know, to be, to do and to be community.  
These ideas will be included in the session template.

7

**Live it out ideas  
for old sessions**

Find the other CORE sessions in your topic area that were written in the past and create 'Live it out' ideas for each session.





# Brokenness to Wholeness Framework



**This diagram shows the path from Brokenness of sin to the Wholeness of shalom.**

The two axes represent the two spheres of brokenness:

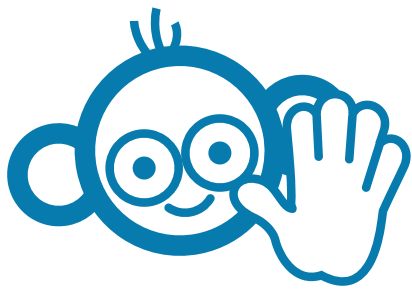
## Horizontal

Physical, personal, social brokenness is evidenced by poverty, war, abuse, sickness, etc. Aid and development programs can help bring these children into a safe and healthy environment where they are enabled to develop personally and contribute to society.

## Vertical

Spiritual separation from God through sin and ignorance is healed as the church reaches out, shares the Gospel and guides them into a relationship with God. As part of the community of His Body, their relationship with God is strengthened and they are enabled to become active participants in His work.

All children are currently somewhere on this matrix — experiencing different levels of brokenness and wholeness in different areas of their lives. Our goal is to move them closer to the complete wholeness of Shalom, found in the upper right quadrant.



# stop

How can we work with God  
to see children everywhere  
walking with Jesus?



## children

seeing them through God's eyes



Every child is uniquely made in God's image and loved by Him. We need to know and value them as He does if we are to help them walk with Jesus.



How well do I know the children around me, understand their world and allow their voices to be heard and acted upon?



## everywhere

entering their world



Broken environments lack the safety and nurture that children need. The Good Shepherd longs for children to walk among green pastures and quiet waters where they can thrive.



Are we creating environments of safety and nurture where children can thrive even in the midst of challenging circumstances?



# and think



## walking growing on the journey



Learning to walk with Jesus can happen anywhere, at any time, with anyone – or alone. Both formal and informal learning experiences are vital to developing deep roots in God that will enable children to stand strong.



**As I explore life and faith with children, do I demonstrate creativity, relevance and a confidence that God speaks to them through the Bible and prayer and life experiences?**



## with thriving through relationships



God seeks a relationship with every child. As we walk along with them, we support them and help them to make sense of life and faith.



**Do I see my relationships with children as opening possibilities for them to have life-changing experiences with God?**



## Jesus bringing Jesus to others



As children walk with Jesus, they bring Him and His message of hope into their world. They can share Him in places and ways that adults can't.



**Am I overlooking the contribution children can make to the Great Commission?**

We achieve the goal of  
children everywhere  
walking with Jesus through ...

on  
un  
i  
v  
e

**families  
that ...**

1. Celebrate the unique gifts and journeys of each child.
2. Ensure that the family is a safe place for children to grow and learn.
3. Model and pass on faith in everyday circumstances.
4. Serve God together in church and community.

**churches  
that ...**

1. Welcome children and families into a safe and nurturing community which serves their holistic needs.
2. Support and equip families to be centres of faith development.
3. Pray, learn, serve and celebrate together across the generations.
4. Create opportunities for children to explore their God-given gifts and walk alongside them as they learn.






## children that ...

1. Know that their gifts are valued and have opportunities to use them.
2. Share their faith with others in creative ways.
3. Are active participants in building God's Kingdom.

## theological institutions and seminaries that ...

- 
1. Impact all church leaders by including a robust theology of ministry to children and families in every academic discipline.
  2. Ensure that children's ministry is a genuine, academic option.
  3. Become regional centres for networking, conversation and resources in ministry to children and families.

## partnerships among Christian and secular organisations that ...

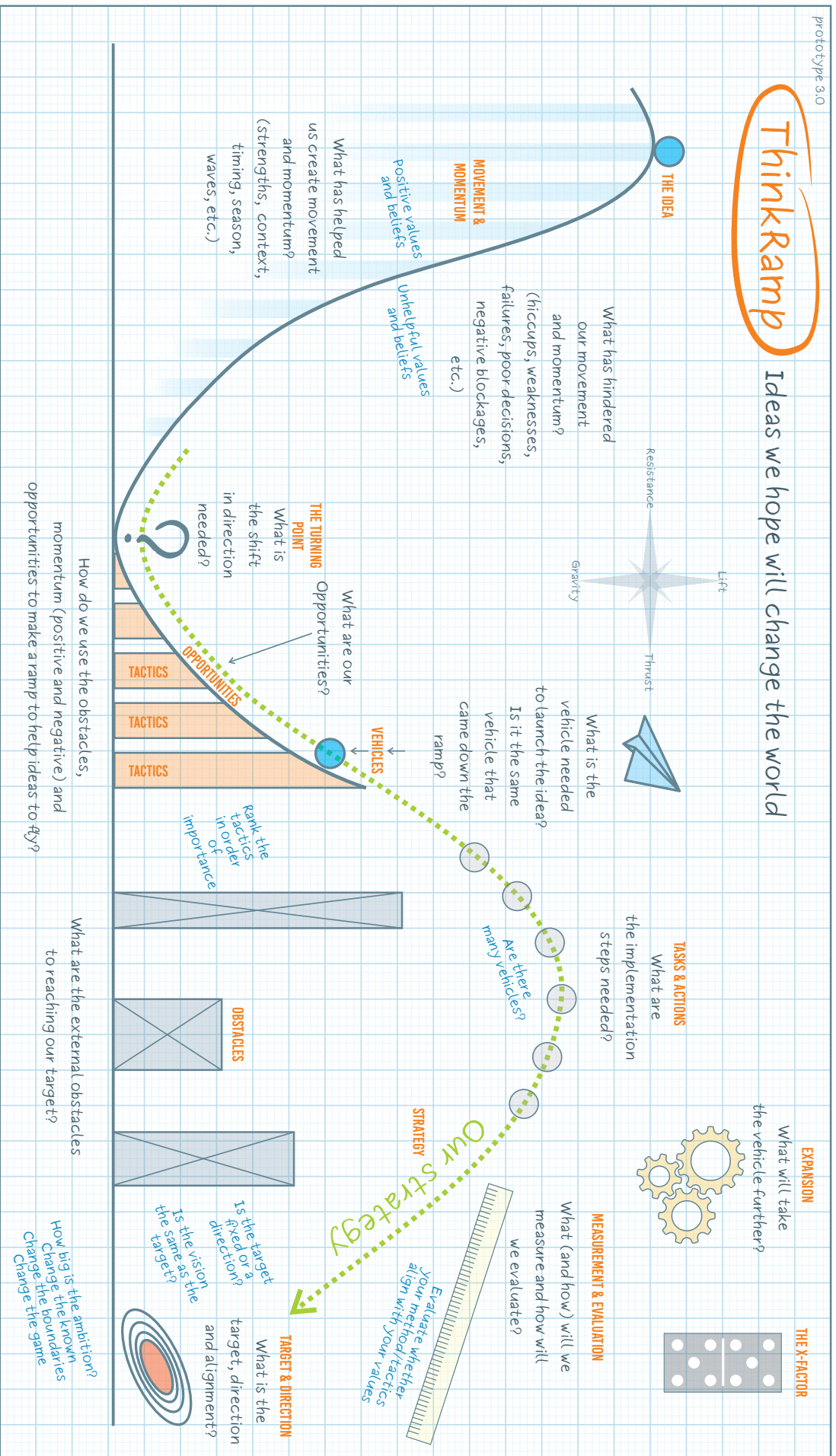
- 
1. Meet children's practical needs for food and shelter, health and education.
  2. Advocate for children's rights at all levels of community and government.
  3. Explore innovative approaches that address the changing, often difficult, realities for today's children and families and ensure that these are adequately resourced.
  4. Encourage children to contribute to the well-being of the community.



**children everywhere  
walking with Jesus**

# ThinkRamp

Ideas we hope will change the world



## A BIG PICTURE



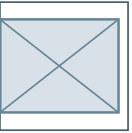
THE BIG IDEA



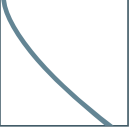
TARGET & DIRECTION



MOVEMENT & MOMENTUM



OBSTACLES



OPPORTUNITIES



TACTICS



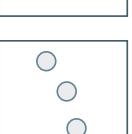
STRATEGY



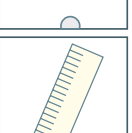
THE TURNING POINT



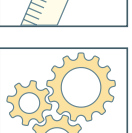
VEHICLES



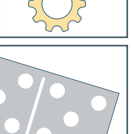
TASKS & ACTIONS



MEASUREMENT & EVALUATION



EXPANSION



THE X-FACTOR

## B TACTICS & STRATEGY

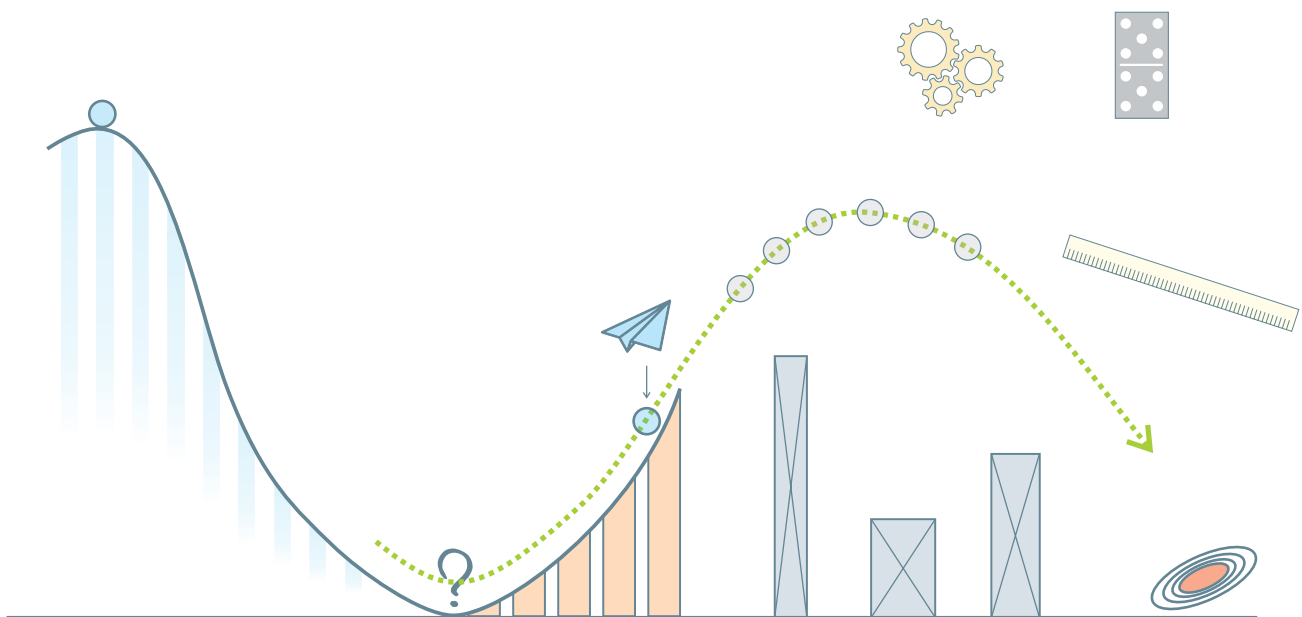
## C INNOVATION

## D IMPLEMENTATION

## E IMPACT AND MULTIPLICATION

Asking a team to think strategically, creatively and practically all at once, will be hard for them. We easily get 'stuck' in our thinking. We find old solutions to familiar challenges. ThinkRamp attempts to help us to collaborate and think in fresh ways, knocking us out of our familiar patterns.

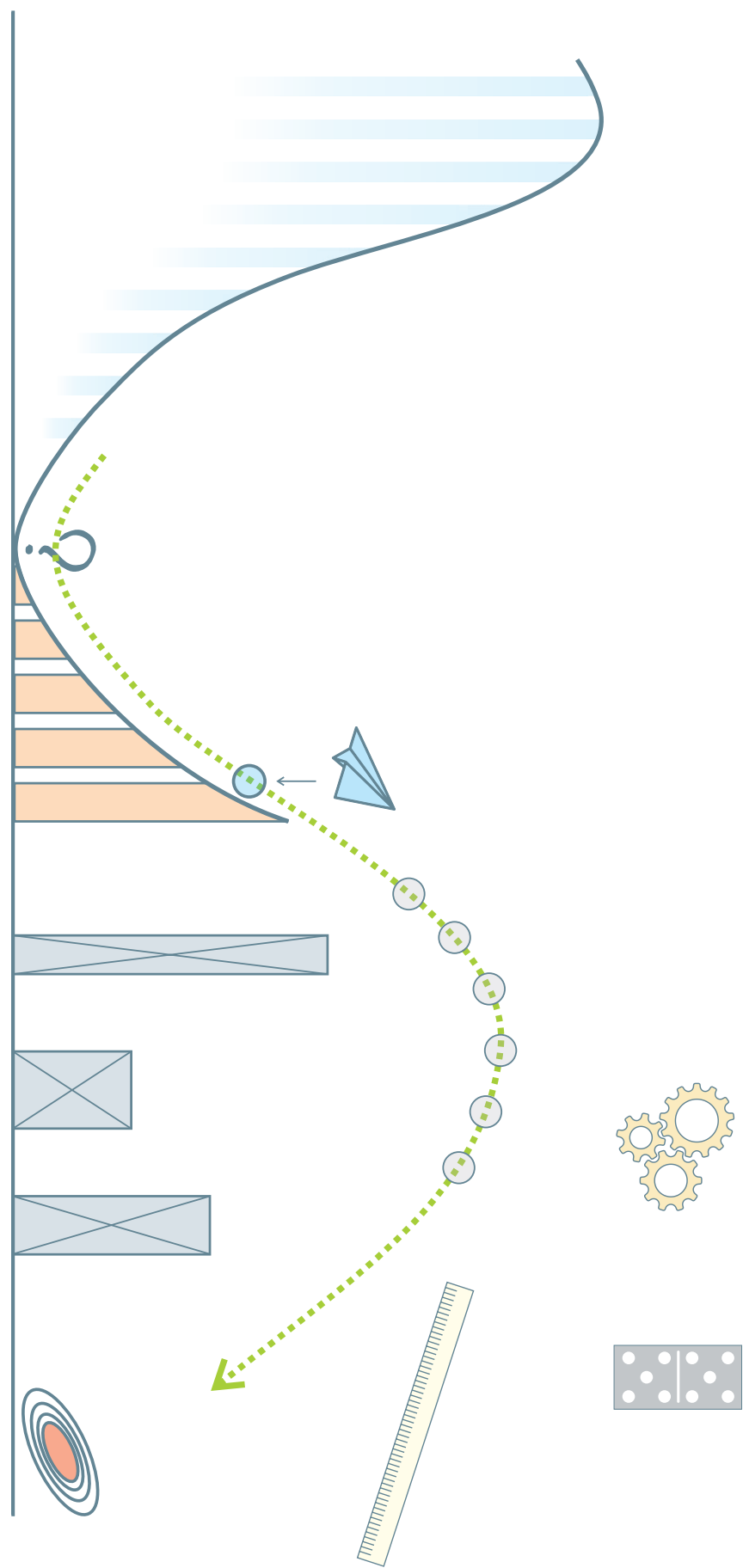
ThinkRamp is a process using a powerful metaphor. It is a place to explore and play, to help see familiar circumstances from a new perspective. It is a tool to help participants to think more deeply and strategically about whatever target or challenge is before them.



<b>1. Ball</b>	What is our basic idea? Do we need a new basic idea?
<b>2. Target</b>	What is our target? How ambitious is it? Are there multiple targets? Are the targets aligned?
<b>3. On ramp</b>	What gives us momentum to launch ideas? Our history? Our strengths and weaknesses? Our connections? Our resources?
<b>4. Obstacles</b>	What obstacles are preventing us from reaching the target? What are the most significant ones?
<b>5. Up ramp</b>	What opportunities are there that can give our idea lift? What 'waves' in current trends can we ride?
<b>6. Direction change</b>	What is our turning point? What revolution in thinking do we need at this time? Is there a paradigm shift needed?



# Blank ThinkRamp Diagram



# Global Children's Forum (GCF)

---

## Who are we?

We are a global pioneering partnering community, striving to be more effective in reaching the children of the world with the Gospel of Jesus, by doing together what we can't do alone. It involves over 100 organizations, large and small, local and international, and began in 2008 to wrestle with these fundamental questions:

- How can we be more effective together in reaching children with the good news of Jesus?
- What can we do together that we cannot do alone?

The vision that unites and drives us is simple — to see children everywhere walking with Jesus. Digging a little deeper challenges us to see them through God's eyes, enter their world, see them grow on the journey, thrive through relationships and bring Jesus to others.

## What do we value?

**one another**

**working together**

**love and humility**

**sharing generously**

**courage and creativity**

## 2023 Strategic Priorities:

The priority of GCF is to help God's people to make disciples among children and help them to experience God's shalom. Special attention is given to this within the context of family and children at risk. We believe the end-goal of this is to equip and encourage children to be active contributors to God's mission and their community.

1. Strengthen collaboration, especially around missional families
2. Reshape leadership, integrating younger leaders
3. Develop Learning Community regional pilots
4. Expand the strategic scope of the GCF Leadership Experience (LE)
5. Roll out FlashLab and other innovation tools



## What is GOPlay?

**GOPlay** is part of the *sport movement*. GOPlay focuses on children, teens, families, and communities — and is therefore open to all. The six priorities of the sport movement are going to unreached people and places, praying strategically, empowering local leaders and teams, and mobilizing every church.

The sport movement sees this phase as a season to develop leaders and team — mature and multiplying leaders — supporting and praying for more workers of the harvest (Matthew 9:38). These leaders and teams need to be prepared for going to the GAPS — places and groups of people where there are no sports ministry leaders and teams making disciples for Jesus.

GOPlay is operating in this larger sport movement ecosystem. In the past decade we have had competent training resources for raising leaders who specifically work with children and teens. This has been our big focus. In collaboration with GCF and GO Health & Fitness we have explored the potential of helping families to actively disciple their children and to be on mission in their local communities. We see this as the season of going and helping families everywhere, encouraging them also to GO to their GAPS.

## 2023-2025 Strategic Priorities

1. Millions of families on mission
2. Kids and Youth Leadership Journeys — apprenticeships
3. Multiply Schools — mobilize leaders to start and continue GOPlay disciple-making strategies — hybrid and face-to-face equipping of leaders and teams.
4. Continue to sharpen and mobilize active disciple-making strategies across the body of Christ through GOPlay strategies like Kids Games, WLC, CCON and Festivals.
5. Continue to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with other movements and organizations with synergy to our vision.





# GO Health & Fitness and family.fit

---

## 2023 Strategic Priorities

1. Build the family.fit health and fitness team.
2. Develop hubs for family.fit in the 12 Big Regions that the sports movement divide the world in.
3. Create pathways for families and individuals that use family.fit and then learn and grow in other health and fitness models to make disciples for Jesus.
4. Strategically work on how the health and fitness team can serve families on mission.

## Family.fit

The collaborative development of family.fit began in early 2020. It helps your family to be fit and healthy, stay connected, and grow in character. It is an all-age strategy that is ideally suited to help your family grow together in faith and fitness. Each session is available both on the website and as a downloadable PDF. We have over 1,500 sessions available across 21 languages.

You and your family can use these sessions to connect in fun ways and exercise regularly in your house, apartment or local park. With a little creativity, everyone can be fit and healthy, stay connected, and grow in character and faith.





# Kids Generosity Movement

---

## Generous Children

We dream of seeing a world of generous children who become so generous with their time, talent and treasure, that their friends long to follow Jesus because they want to know the God who inspires such generosity. The vision is to see the generosity of God displayed through the generosity of God's children. We envision a movement of children who give freely of all that they are in response to God's radical grace. We pray they are liberated to live and give in God's image to see God's kingdom come on earth. The dream is to create cross-cultural experiences and resources with children about God and giving.

## Priorities

- Strengthen relationships with likeminded leaders.
- Create a unique name for the mission.
- Create a few activities / experiences which could be rolled out, and tested around the world.
- Create a core group of leaders willing to help test these experiences and resources in at least 10 different cultures around the world, refining the products, and then sharing it globally.



## What is Rede Mãos Dadas?

Rede Mãos Dadas is a network that exists to promote and support a Biblical response to the problems experienced by vulnerable children and adolescents in the most varied circumstances. Networking among likeminded organizations is our strategy to improve the Christian response (currently there are 55 Christian organizations in Brasil linked together). We believe in God's kingdom as the standard inaugurated by Christ. This demands from us, as his followers, an attitude aligned with the Master's heart towards children, adolescents, and all human beings. Therefore, we want every child and adolescent to experience the fullness of life.



# My planner

---

## Monday

Morning
Afternoon
Evening

## Tuesday

Morning
Afternoon
Evening

## Wednesday

Morning
Afternoon
Evening



## Thursday

Morning
Afternoon
Evening

## Friday

Morning
Afternoon
Evening

## Bible devotions (notes)

## Notes

## Action Steps

### Next steps and tasks that I have committed to do:



# THE SIMPLE GCF PARTNERING PROCESS

and the values that guide us

Partnering  
Values

Bible,  
global,  
academic,  
practical,  
holistic,  
contemporary

Quality  
Input

Ministry  
Values

Disruptive and  
innovative thinking

Ideas

Models

Contextual  
Prototypes

Publish  
& Release

Relationships  
and trust

Sacrifice

Humility

Servanthood

Kingdom-  
focused

Global

Free & Open

Empowering

**Goal:**  
Children  
everywhere  
walking  
with Jesus

CHURCHES AND  
ORGANIZATIONS  
OF THE WORLD





