

REBUILDERS



Summer 2008

The message of the Kingdom and of biblical economics continues to grow exponentially in Central American countries as it gets into the hands of key church, business, and political leaders. Strategic Christian Services President Dennis Peacocke experienced this first hand during a 17-day trip to Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua.

The trip began in Guatemala where Director of Training Tom Burtness and Dennis held a facilitator's training, just prior to the country's first Business Leadership School (BLS) Intensive. Earl Pitts joined them there, as well as in Costa Rica, to teach on Kingdom financial principles.

In Guatemala, Dennis was also honored to be the keynote speaker at the inauguration of Pan American University's 10-year anniversary celebration, where he spotlighted the need for a biblical approach to financial and economic planning to an audience of 6,000 faculty and students.

"As a result of meetings with Dennis, leaders in Guatemala are laying the groundwork to involve some of the Christian businessmen in an initiative to bring God's economy to bear on

national policies," said James Jankowiak, Director of Verbo Ministries.

Costa Rica hosted its third BLS Intensive, which was held at the country's largest church, a 10,000-member Assemblies of God congregation in San Jose (see details in back article). The response was so strong that Tom will return sooner than expected to train more facilitators. Our thanks go to SCS Ambassador Rickie Johnson, who joined the SCS team in Costa Rica and provided the pictures on this page.

The interest in biblical economic principles is growing worldwide. While the team was in Central America, Dennis, Ronnie Diaz (SCS' Director for Latin America), and Tom Burtness all appeared on television programs.

In Costa Rica, Dennis appeared "live" on television to talk about biblical economics with Jonas Gonzalez (founder of ENLACE) on his show, "Amongst Us." ENLACE, the largest Spanish Christian Television Network, reaches Spanish-speaking Christians around the world, including not only the western hemisphere, but also Spain, the Philippines, and other areas. Dennis was able to appear on ENLACE television both this year and last, in an effort to reach

Spanish-speaking people around the world with the message God has given us.

In Nicaragua, Dennis continued to build relationships and work toward a BLS launch. He also conducted radio interviews, had several strategic meetings, and was featured on national television.

Surge in Central America

"Many of our meetings with key apostolic, business, and political leaders may well be historic," Dennis said. "In all my years, I have never seen the Lord open so many doors so quickly."

With the translation into Spanish of Dennis' two books, *Doing Business God's Way* and *Winning the Battle for the Minds of Men*, as well as BLS and other SCS materials, SCS continues to see new doors open throughout Mexico, and Central and South American nations. Costa Rican pastor Ronnie Diaz has led these efforts with his translation work and networking with other leaders.

"The move to establish a godly plan for the economic and political transformation of Central America took a step forward," James Jankowiak (Verbo) said regarding these meetings.



The SCS vision continues...

Around the world, SCS impacts thousands of believers by equipping their leadership through our schools, seminars, educational materials, and personal interaction. Since 1979 we have endeavored to serve those who are seeing God's Kingdom and seeking to express it in the whole of human life and culture.



PRAYER & EVENTS

CALENDAR

MAY

- South Africa:
- 8 Johannesburg *Leadership Meetings*
- 13 Capetown *Nation Building Conference & Various Private Meetings*
- 18 Johannesburg *Church Ministry*

JUNE

- Oklahoma City:
- 7-10 *ATI Conference*

AUGUST

- Switzerland
- 8-10 *SLT, BLS Transforum*

There is a three fold prayer need this summer: first, for Dennis as he completes the manuscript of his new book; second, for the fruitfulness of the message heard by “new ears” this Spring; third, for these hearts to be touched to sow their treasure into the work for the sake of their “neighbors.” The growing field requires more workers, and Luke 10:7 tells us they are worthy of their hire.

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SPIRIT TO SPIRIT

Behind the Scenes in Costa Rica

The recent Business Leadership Intensive in San Jose, Costa Rica was surrounded with examples of God’s timing and His blessings. The work of SCS in Costa Rica has been building God’s way, relationally and line upon line.

One example of this is the testimony of Carlos Avendano, a pastor with a strong interest in politics. Several years ago, Ronnie and he began to meet for about three hours a week; Ronnie taught him principles of politics from a biblical perspective which prepared Carlos for pursuing his political interests. The next elections Carlos Avendano was elected to the national congress. Two years in a row, the national reporters have named him the best congressman. He is particularly known for his work and legislation on family-related issues. He is also known for having “sat” on top of a beloved statue to protest the proposed use of noise ordinances to constrain worship on Sunday mornings in the small community churches characteristic of Costa Rica.

This year, Carlos asked Pastor Raul Vargas if they could use a room at his church for the Business Leadership School (BLS) intensive. It turned out Raul was familiar with Dennis’ book, and he had wanted something for businessmen. Raul told Carlos if he would let him join in on the meetings, he would give him the auditorium. Raul also ran ads on TV and made changes to the church schedule to accommodate the needs of BLS.

“My biggest delight is seeing how faithful the Lord is to work with our faithfulness in little things, and how the Lord put together all the pieces” Ronnie said. “I have always known there was going to come a time when the Lord was going to accelerate things.”

This is just one testimony from the series of connections and meetings that are already bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God in Costa Rica.

Rebuilder’s Network

Workers in Christ’s Kingdom

The Ambassadors group is growing within the SCS team. Ambassadors are men and women who feel a strong commitment to the vision of SCS and have made the decision to give of their time, talent, and treasure to help expand that vision. Ambassadors come from all walks of life—there are dairy farmers, financial planners, contractors in the trades, lawyers, investors, family business owners, and more—and each Ambassador stands out because of their vital support of the work and willingness to get involved on a deeper level. Ambassadors serve in a variety of ways, including on our SCS prayer team, committees, projects, or Board, or by teaching the materials in their churches or business associations. All Ambassadors are generous givers who are committed to modeling and sharing the message in their communities.

Ambassadors are able to keep vitally connected with the work of SCS via group conference calls with Dennis, letters and emails of significant news, and through an annual retreat set aside just for Ambassadors. Many have commented that the most important personal benefit of being an Ambassador has been the fellowship with others who share a similar worldview. If you have been giving financially and would like to start investing your time and talent as well, please contact Lynne at our office for more information.