

# REBUILDERS



Winter 2014

## COSTA RICA

On Dennis Peacocke's recent trip to Costa Rica, SCS representative, Ronnie Diaz, brought together many church ministry and political leaders as an informal network. Ronnie has been instrumental in bringing the message of the Kingdom of God and its social implications to a number of leaders in Central America.



RONALD & ZEIDY DIAZ

This meaningful show of unity was based on their common realization that the issues of Costa Rica's upcoming national elections in February are crucial for a Christian culture. Like many nations, Costa Rica faces an agenda of secularization by outside influences with economic leverage. Currently, Costa Ricans are coming against efforts to legalize gay marriage and abortion, as well as initiatives to remove the official status of the Catholic Church in their nation. On the surface, this is very surprising, but a better-informed and more principle-oriented perspective has led to Protestant opposition to the repeal of the state church status.

Although there are significant differences in the beliefs of Catholics and Protestants, both realize the opposition's goal is to remove the very roots of Christianity from their culture. Many nations in Europe and

the Americas with "religious freedom" still have an official state church, as an affirmation of the importance of a spiritual base for the morals and ethics of the people.

As secularization seeks to eliminate more and more of the moral and ethical boundaries in historically Christian nations, we can expect changes in the acknowledgement of God's place in all jurisdictions. Thus, in the United States, there are many attacks on the prominence that the Judeo-Christian ethic has had in its history. From the taking down of the Ten Commandments to objections to "In God we trust" as a motto, the battle is already engaged.

2013 brought mass demonstrations against these proposed legislations jointly led by Catholics and Evangelicals. This unity of purpose was truly an historical event and shows that the Holy Spirit is convicting Christians to join forces to withstand the political and economic pressures of secularization.

Dennis was invited to address a number of national Christian organizations and their leaders, as well as numbers of people holding or running for public office in the upcoming elections. The increased level of political awareness and the people's understanding of the connection between the Kingdom of God and our task to disciple nations was a

startling increase from the last time he addressed churches there on the same issues four years ago. In previous visits, he had addressed relatively small groups, whereas on this trip, he addressed hundreds and spoke on one of the top ten radio stations in Costa Rica for an hour and a half with political leaders on the secular crisis facing Costa Rica. He also had a joint strategy meeting with Catholic and Protestant leaders, something he has never experienced before in this nation.

It is clear that Strategic Christian Services is providing much-appreciated knowledge and training to encourage the Costa Rican church body to pick up its social responsibilities for righteousness and justice.

"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne."

—Psalm 97:2b

Please pray for multiplied effects of our cooperative efforts for Christ's Kingdom in Costa Rica and Central America—especially that the necessity of voluntary associations in Central America would begin to emerge with strength and the wealthy would begin to take their proper place in supporting social systems which both glorify Christ and empower the larger segments of society. 🌐

By Jan Peacocke

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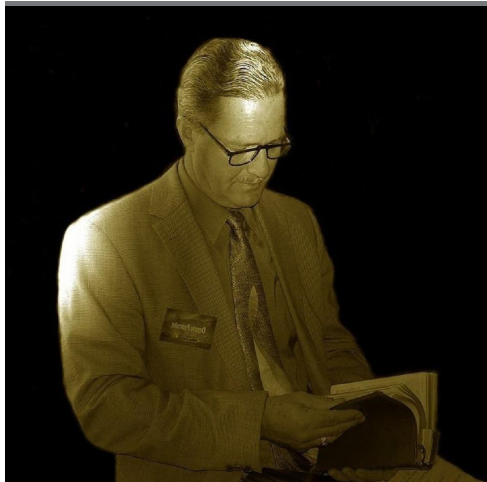
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# TRANSFORUM 2014

## U N S E E N R E A L I T Y



## PRAYER & EVENTS

**Thank you for your faithful prayer and support!**

**APRIL 3-5, 2014**

SCS Transform Event with BLS & SLT Intensives  
Sheraton DFW Airport  
Dallas, Texas

**JUNE 25-JULY 6, 2014**

Dennis ministering in:  
Singapore, Indonesia & New Zealand

**JULY 3-5, 2014**

Business Leadership School Intensive  
Singapore

**SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2014**

Statesmen Meetings  
Dallas, Texas

## CALENDAR

*"On my desk in the Oval Office, I have a little sign that says, 'There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit.'"*

—Ronald Reagan

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## Strategic Life Training

SCS has held its last two Strategic Life Training Intensives in Lawrence, Kansas. Hosted by Morning Star Church, Pastor John McDermott has a unique church plant and campus ministry vision. They share, "Our heart as a church and campus ministry has always been to reach the lost, make disciples, train leaders, and send them out with a vision to transform the world for God's glory and the advancement of His Kingdom." They had long been looking for the right teaching materials in their quest to make disciples and train leaders. After creating some of their own materials and looking at those of other organizations for about 15 years, they took a closer look at SCS' Strategic Life Training school and *Living Life God's Way* series.

Having started with a mentoring/discipleship focus, the facilitation dynamic of the SCS materials was a perfect fit. After grounding students in the concept of Kingdom life and the fundamentals of the gospel, studying the *Living Life God's Way* series is the next step in establishing a purposeful, daily walk and a disciple's lifestyle. Next, they recommend SLT to equip them for their university experience, and following that, their own ministry based on jurisdictional calling establishes a seamless flow for each subsequent step of life Christ presents.

According to Ryan Hickman, President of Called to Greatness, their affiliated evangelistic campus ministry, "The heart of the material was just what we were looking for in training young leaders. It focuses on the practice of daily training yourself to make decisions that honor God and advance His Kingdom. It is both visionary and practical to daily life.

"SLT has helped me see the world completely differently."

—Kansas SLT student

Strategic Life Training has been specifically helpful in developing students' biblical worldview and mentoring them to live strategically. The course helps equip them with practical tools for addressing the multitude of worldviews they will experience on the college campus and in everyday life. With proper facilitation, it is set up perfectly for continuing the discipleship process, as well as helping leaders develop their own personal leadership. This material is working very well for us."

With about forty-five people (both church and campus ministry leaders) taking the SLT course over the past year, they will be offering the course again in the fall. The energy of the students can be seen in the diversity of SLT service projects their students have completed as part of the course, from re-landscaping a grade school, working with youth sports, assisting a pregnancy care center, and even a mission in Uganda. An interesting addition to the areas of service was initiated by one enterprising woman who had a vision to aid the Douglas County Jail. She and her fellow SLT students helped renovate the library shelving, reorganized the books, and enlarged the collection—something the local government budgets could not afford to do and that expanded much-needed opportunities for the fruitful use of inmates' time.

Ryan Hickman concludes, "Our hope is to encourage young people that God desires to use them in any and every vocation to bring about His purposes. They are growing in their confidence to lead and in their ability to communicate and live a gospel and kingdom-centered message to the world around them. Focusing on the practice of training yourself to make decisions that honor God and advance His Kingdom is both visionary and practical to daily life."

For more info on SLT or to register for courses, please visit: [www.strategiclifetraining.com](http://www.strategiclifetraining.com)

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