

REBUILDERS



igniting personal
and social transformation™

Spring 2006
Volume II

When it comes to biblical economics, many Christians in Costa Rica have heard little to nothing.

Numerous churches in this Central American country teach a variation of a prosperity theology, that God “always blesses His children” and they overlook that He allows hardship to develop our character.

This is why Pastor Ronald Diaz didn’t know what to expect when he hosted the country’s first *Business Leadership School (BLS)*. “I knew what the content was and I was nervous about their reaction,” Mr. Diaz said of the materials that deal with subjects such as biblical problem solving, dualism and the deceptions of false success.

He was excited to have 67 people attend the 3-day Intensive held in March in the country’s capital, San Jose. Many who attended were already accomplished business people, including the vice president of one of the largest corporations in Central America, and the CEO of Avon Costa Rica.

The format was similar to other *BLS* Intensives, with specialized workshops and small groups. The speakers included SCS President Dennis Peacocke, local businessman

Jose Miguel Campos, financial expert Earl Pitts, and SCS vice president of Training, Tom Burtness. “The potential is enormous,” Mr. Burtness said. “I was watching hope come alive in their eyes – hope for their families, businesses and for their nation.”

Eduardo Arce Diaz, a participant in the Intensive observed: “Secular business teachings focus on how to build profitable businesses with our knowledge and energy. This Intensive focused on how to build profitable businesses with God’s knowledge and guidance, and the energy that arises from Him in us.”

In a follow-up meeting, 25 people signed up to begin the two-year correspondence school, with another five entering the facilitator training program. Prayers are needed for them as they embrace a completely different way of thinking and living.

The purpose of the school is to train people to build their lives and businesses on biblical truths. It is about empowering people to lead others and increase their economic lifestyle, describes Dennis Peacocke. “What makes the gospel good news is its empowering dimension,” he said. “The *BLS* is bringing third world countries the possibility to move beyond fear, desperation and sheer survival to blessing, abundance and generational transfer.”

Additional meetings have been planned to spread the word, and new students are emerging in Mexico and Guatemala. “This is a powerful tool that is coming to its right moment,” Mr. Diaz said.

Costa Rica, with 4 million people, is the size of West Virginia. It’s high educational standards and rapidly growing economy have lured international companies and contributed to interest in the business world.

BLS
en
Español

Mr. Diaz has worked tirelessly translating Strategic Christian Services’ materials for Costa Rica and other Spanish-speaking areas. He has established the SCS Latin American office and Spanish website, www.serestrategico.org.

SCS is positioning itself to be more effective in the Western Hemisphere. *The Americas Council* was formed to do this. Overseen by a dozen regional leaders, it’s committed to focusing on the growth of the SCS message by local mobilization and networking. Mr. Diaz serves on this council as the regional coordinator of Central America. “We are pioneering,” Mr. Diaz said. “These are very new ideas here.”



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.



SPIRIT TO SPIRIT

~ *The Key to Change* ~

Many Christians today want change that comes easy. We want someone to lay hands on us; we want a shot, a pill, a meeting. We desperately seek a remedy to our problems that doesn't require hard work. We want an experience. We don't want training. But the critical factor in change is training. Change is only released to disciples because they are the ones committed to training as a way of life. That is why Jesus told us to be and make disciples.

There is a difference between teaching and training. Listening to biblical teachings does not make disciples. Teaching can only produce Christians. Teaching is the giving of ideas or aligning our mind with truth. It involves talking, listening and thinking through what has been said. The end result is information.

Training begins with teaching, but it doesn't stop there. We talk, help people listen, and demonstrate a truth. Then we do something that's really unpleasant. We ask the listener to demonstrate what they've heard and seen us do. Then we watch what they do and correct them until what they are doing matches what we're doing. Now we're into training. Here's an example: when learning to block a punch, (or deal with a recurring problem) all the teaching

in the world will not help you. I can theorize, diagram, and speak all I want about blocking a punch. But the only thing that is going to help you is if I show you. If you will do what I tell you, the way I tell you, and practice it over and over, you will come to a time when you're able to block a punch because you are trained. Hopefully the analogy is obvious.

Being a disciple means training our lives, our emotions, our minds, our speech, how we see, how we hear, and how we relate. When we train long enough, we develop what is called a reflex. A reflex requires no work. We have truly changed when we have trained ourselves in any area to the point of a reflex action.

If there ever were generations on the planet ready for the power of change, they are the generations alive now. We can't sex our way into change. We can't drug our way into change. We can't drink our way into change. We can't spend our way into change.

As disciples, we have the answer. The key to change is not teaching. The key to change is training. The Apostle Peter said it so clearly in 2 Peter 1:3-11. Take time to go through these verses. The proof is in the Word.

~Based on *The Discipleship Seminar*, Tape 2

PRAYER & EVENTS

CALENDAR

Please pray for those in SCS schools-that they will hear the message, train in it, and act on it in their daily lives.

JUNE

Seattle, WA:

Executive Training Group 8-9

Newport, KY:

SLT Intensive 14-18

Dallas, TX:

Executive Training Group 21-22

Chicago, IL:

Executive Training Group 23-25

JULY

Paris & Toulouse, France:

Transforum 10-18

AUGUST

Biel, Switzerland:

BLS 1-3

Transforum 4-5

Plymouth, MA:

SLT Intensive 9-13

JOY:

THE EMOTION

EXCITED BY

GOOD AND GOD

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What is Dennis' Call?

Two things Dennis hears continually from those who appreciate his ministry are:

1. We need to hear more of this; you must come again.
2. You need to slow down; your schedule is too full.

At SCS, many projects are go until we hit a stop; meaning Dennis is needed to make a decision or have a say in a project. Thus response time is slow, especially during his international travels, when his time to communicate with us is even more limited. When home, he finds himself tired from travels, but with a deluge of work to catch up on. He has difficulty finding time for study and preparation. Yet God continues to bless Dennis' travels and open new doors for him to further the Kingdom message. The Lord is giving us the opportunity to respond to both perspectives.

We have interviewed an excellent candidate for the position of Chief Operating Officer. This man is remarkably qualified to oversee the office while Dennis travels and ease up his load while he is home. He would bring skill sets to the SCS team that we do not currently have. Our overall productivity would greatly increase with the addition of a COO, and it seems God has prepared this candidate for SCS at this time.

Would you like to make this happen? Can you commit to underwrite a portion of the salary for the COO for the next 18 months? If so, let us know. Please call the office and ask for Jan if you'd like to discuss this need and what you can do to help. The Harvest is so great. SCS can do more.

New! Make your donations online at: www.gostrategic.org