

Editorial

The recent attempt of the president of Guatemala to expel the Commissioner of the CIGIG (International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala) produced a series of reactions which have shaken the political ground of the country. There are groups in favour of the action and groups against. What should be the reaction of Christians in the face of such challenges? Some of the most important are 1) To pray for discernment, the fear of God and good judgement of the authorities of Government, State entities and the people in general. 2) To demand that the president acts in the best interests of the nation. According to the constitution "It is the duty of the state to guarantee to the inhabitants of the Republic life, liberty, justice, security, peace and the wholesale development of the person". This mandate tries to avoid groups or people who solely look for their own personal interest, obstructing justice or shying away from submitting to the law; they should put the interests of the nation first. 3) Look at things objectively. That is to say analyse the truth of the facts on the basis of the truth and reality of the country, so as to not be biased in our opinion. 4) Make a commitment to act correctly with the aim of working in favour of changing structures of social inequality; and to fight against corruption and the impunity which corrode the foundations of society.



The search for righteousness is a major challenge for Christians because of their faith, the mission of announcing the reign of God and the Constitution of the country. Righteousness from a biblical point of view has to do with "doing good", "acting correctly" and with "the application of righteousness and the law/rights. On the one hand, the Bible teaches that righteousness is an essential part of the character, action and demands of God. The Bible underlines that "justice" and "righteousness" are fundamental to the throne of God (Psalm 89:14 and 97:2); it affirms that God loves righteousness and justice (Psalm 33:5) He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free (Psalm 146:7). For this reason God demands that judges "Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent." (Deut 16:19). Because God is just he exhorts his people to be just, to act with justice and to demand this from the rest. This distinctive implies a personal and communal re-evaluation as to how to act justly. (1 Pet 4:17)

On the other hand the bible emphasises the role of justice in society. It teaches that justice helps the nation, but that sin is an affront for the people; it underlines that it is an abomination for the governors to commit wickedness, because the government is linked to justice; and it notes that "To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice". (Prov 14:34, 16:12, 21:3). The prophets warned the people in order that they "learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow" (Is 1:17) so that they denounce and complain about the injustices that are committed in the nation. It notes that in a context of wickedness, the law is weakened, judgements do not follow the truth and the wicked harass the just, for this reason justice is distorted. (Habakkuk 1:4). It demands that the leadership and the people "hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts." (Amos 5:14-15). The scriptures categorically underline that the fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be "quietness and confidence forever." (Is 32:17). In other words righteousness is an essential base for the construction and establishment of peace in all societies; the commitment for righteousness that we should assume derives from the heart of God.

Israel Ortiz / Director

20 September Civil March



OUR MISSION 3 R'S TEAM



We wish to update you:

We thank the Lord for the life of the members of the team, for their willingness and commitment to teach the Word of God in relation to the care of the environment. 20th October they will be in the village of Talmiche in Huehuetenango- the north west of the country – giving a workshop that we hope will be used to help the sustainable development of that area.

Below: Pamela Liquez,
Vanessa Chang and Benita Simón

Standing: Esteban Acuña,
Byron Gálvez, Ángela Hochstrasser, Venuz Pérez

The **PROJECT OF INVESTIGATION** is in its 3rd phase. We have begun the work of analysis and interpretation of the data collected in the interviews and surveys.

We ask for your prayers for Dr Palma and Dr Ortiz who have the responsibility to work on the final report – due hopefully before the end of the year.



The **CERTIFICATION OF NEW TEACHERS** is a programme that we have been working on since April this year. We have learnt much in the 3 one day sessions including integral mission, andragogy, Bloom's taxonomy, how to prepare a lesson and group work were among the areas studied. The aim of this training is to equip new teachers to teach in our courses in the future.



With the **DIPLOMA** courses we are in the final strait. Shortly we will be celebrating 2 graduations of 25 students from the area of **Coban** and 22 from the area of **Chamil**. The latter is a village more than 4 hours from Guatemala with the final stretch along dirt tracks. Most of the participants walk more than an hour to get to the training and one up to 3 hours! **The Foundation Food for the Hungry (FH)** has been our contact there and we are very grateful to them for all their hard work with the logistics and in encouraging their leaders to attend. We have learnt much through working with them. Thank you FH.

The other diploma course that will end in October is that nearer the city in Chimaltenango- an hour away by car – and we hope that 19 students will graduate on 26th October. This is our second year in Chimaltenango and we wish to thank our local coordinators Pastor John Cana and his wife Marlene whose desire to study the word and their disposition to serve the pastors of the region are a great testimony to their lives. We do hope that the diploma students can put into practice that which they have learnt for the glory and honour of our Father.



NEW EVENTS:

Date	Title	Organisation
5 Oct.	Integrated mission	Compassion Guatemala
19 Oct.	Good family relationships	Theological Seminary Nazarene Church Guatemala City
20 Oct.	Mission 3R workshop	Central American Church Huehuetenango
1-2 Nov.	Fulfilling your ministry	Central American Church Malacatan
6-10 Nov.	Justice and Advocacy	Renewed World, Guatemala

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Firstly we want to thank the Lord for his being with us in all that we do!

- ✓ For safety for the team as they journey to Huehuetenango to deliver the workshop – a journey of some 7 hours.
- ✓ For each of the students in the various diplomas – that they would put in practice at least one of the teachings for the benefit of their community, church or at the personal level- and that God would keep them safe and that his Holy Spirit would empower them.
- ✓ That the aims we have for the programmes of investigation and education would be accomplished by the grace of God.
- ✓ For new donors so that we can carry out our mission and vision

Thank you Lord for all your blessings