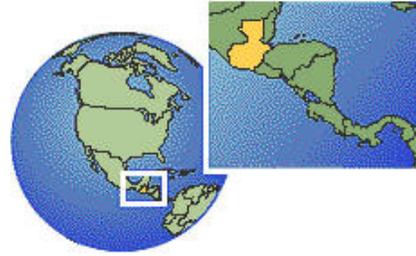


Central American GATS SeminarsA HUGE Success



The week of October 13th was an exciting time for the Bible Schools of Central America. We held two seminars to train our faculty, one in the northern country of Guatemala and the other in the more southern country of Nicaragua. There was a total attendance of 132 teachers, anxious to grow in their teaching ministry. Our goal is to better equip our Bible School teachers to be more effective in the classroom and to see greater productivity in our Bible Schools.

The Bible Schools in our area of the world are training centers for ministry. They are the seedbed for future ministers and church leaders. When students come to our schools we are expecting life changing results. In fact in our Bible School in Guatemala we have 10 qualities that we desire to see in our 'final product' when a student graduates from one of our programs of study.

The qualities that we strive for in our graduates are that they are: Faithful, Spiritual, Visionaries, Effective, Good Administrators, Responsible, with Good Human Relations, Learned, Leadership Qualities evident and Respectful. Each of these qualities has been well defined and many of them encompass several aspects in the character and ministry of the student. We also expect the student to have applied himself in accordance to II Timothy 2:15. *'Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'*

Each teacher has this list of qualities posted throughout their syllabus and understands that they need to focus on molding them into the lives of the students that God has placed in our responsibility. Paul's exhortation to Timothy has become the driving force of our teachers; *'And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also'* (2 Timothy 2:2).

The Institute of Pentecostal Ministries in Guatemala has become the heart of the church in our nation. It has had been one of the main factors in the stability, development and consistent growth that the UPC of Guatemala has been experiencing for many years. We offer a wide range of training programs designed to give all our ministers and church leaders the opportunity for solid training.

We are thankful for the newly established Global Association of Theological Studies (GATS). This has been a long awaited program in Foreign Missions, and it will ensure that students all over the world are receiving a quality Bible College training from well equipped instructors. GATS is taking our Bible Schools to a much higher level. Please take the time to visit the GATS web site at <http://www.gatsonline.org/>.

Our October seminars were the first GATS Faculty Education Seminars to be held in our region. The response was unbelievable. We began on Tuesday in Guatemala. 102 teachers came from Belize, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. On Friday the same seminar was held for 30 teachers in Nicaragua. In both locations we spent two days studying such subjects as: The Big Picture of Bible School Training and GATS, Creating an Island of Excellence, Creative Impact, Bible School Administration, Mentoring Students and New Teachers, The Teacher and His Priorities, How Do I Qualify as a Teacher?, What Students Say About Teachers, Qualities of a Good Teacher, Lesson Planning, Continuing Education of the Teacher and other pertinent subjects.

The teachers left both locations excited, challenged and with a much greater vision as to what a Bible School can do in their country. We are striving to invest and impact our future generations through 'Aspiring to Ministerial Excellence' and 'Creating a Culture of Growth' in our schools. These were the main themes of our seminars.

The five nations that were represented in the seminars are in the process of applying for membership status with GATS. Some of the schools are well established, productive schools and others are just beginning. The beauty of GATS is that it does not matter where the school is in its development there is a level that will fit your need. The resources available through GATS are amazing. Whether it be for faculty education or new, dynamic course material, it is being developed by professionals connected with GATS. GATS personnel are also available to help countries develop workable programs. The majority of the teaching material we used in our seminars was provided by GATS or GATS representatives.

The instructors in our GATS seminars were Missionary Brad Thompson (our Regional GATS representative and Director of the Guatemala Bible School), Missionary Steve Nix (Director of the Bible School in Nicaragua), GTI representative Bro. Tim Pruitt, Missionary Lynne Jewett (Administrator of the Guatemala Bible School) and Pastor Teodoro Jolon (Dean of Students in Guatemala). All were well prepared with Power Point Presentations, workshops and their teachings printed in the student syllabus. It was by far the most impressive and impacting seminar we have held for teachers in our sub region. We have already made plans for next year and are excited about the subjects that we will be dealing with.

We are grateful to the following churches for their financial support of these seminars: Southern Oaks - Pastor Mark Parker - Oklahoma; Capital Community Church - Pastor Raymond Woodward - New Brunswick; First United Pentecostal Church - Pastor Terry Kennedy - New Brunswick; Pentecostals of Alexandria - Pastor Anthony Mangun - Louisiana.

If you would like to help support our future seminars in the Central America, Caribbean and Mexico Region we would be THRILLED to have you come on board. We are looking for 100 churches that would donate \$100.00 to invest in the training and equipping of our faculty. If you could help us please email me at:

bradethompson@aol.com and I will give you the account number at Foreign Missions Division. We would love to be able to impact every nation in our region with these

seminars. We are ready to go, but we need you to come on board with us!