



June/July 2007

What can happen in a week . . . as shared by the 150 teachers attending our June *Leadership Development Conference* in Guatemala City.

The closing ceremony was meaningful and relational as two teachers from each group shared about the impact of the conference. They shared how they now have the tools to make a difference in their student's lives, and how their own **lives have changed**. It is difficult to capture all that they shared from their hearts, but some of their comments are below:

- We are reminded to practice values that have been dormant. This is a time of crisis in Guatemala City. Our students need values.
- You have expanded our thinking to impact all of Guatemala. You have given us a vision. We need to start acting on what we have learned. The information must go from our head to our heart.
- ISP stands for: I – inspiration; S – *sabiduria* (wisdom); P – perseverance
- **You have shown us the way back to God.** You have strengthened our spiritual life. We have grown.
- You have raised a standard for all of us. Our commitment is to the children we serve. (Two supervisors from the Department of Education)
- The only owner of our lives is Jesus Christ. I will tell my students religion doesn't matter. **It is all about Christ.** (The teacher was referring to bridging the gap between Evangelicals and Catholics in Guatemala.)
- With my students, we will study and analyze the Bible every day.
- We have grown spiritually, professionally, and physically (referring to the yummy food).
- In Xela, you have planted and watered 19 seeds. We are now roses. Today, we are making a commitment to plant more seeds in our students and their parents.
- We have looked deep into our being. We are committed to help others grow as we have grown.
- The teachers that came through that door Sunday night are **not the same** teachers going out that door tonight (Friday).



Pictures: [Top] Two supervisors read from the Bible and shared things they discovered during their study. [Middle] Marvin teaches in one of the roughest neighborhoods in Guatemala City. Many of the teachers in his school pay "protection money" to gangs to guarantee their safety while doing their jobs. He is using the curriculum in his school. [Bottom] Teachers received certificates of completion issued by the Ministry of Education.

Results from previous Convocations were shared by teachers during afternoon demonstrations, and they also showed how they were using the curriculum.

In July of 2005, several teachers started a program to teach the parents of the students who couldn't read or write. They began with 30 parents and have now helped 75. They teach first through sixth grade curriculum, according to the needs of each parent. *The Greatest Promise Book* is used for teaching reading and about Jesus.

"It was difficult, at first, because many of the other teachers thought that we shouldn't involve God in values. Now we know that they think differently. We teach parents one Saturday every two months with the purpose of making our students better people, rescuing their values . . . for our school and our country. We have been successful with parents and students.

"The parents have agreed to pay an extra fee at the beginning of the year to be used to buy materials for our new "Values Commission." Parents have told us that they think that if, from 300 students, 50 are saved or

