

Against the backdrop of Lake Atitlan and the Mayan historic ruins in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, nearly 900 teachers attended two powerful teacher convocations in July. The Ministry of Education says it wants even *more* of their teachers trained in the moral and ethics curriculum.

An educational coordinator who is in charge of 220 teachers in the region—including 28 who attended the conference in Huehuetenango—told us he is going to call a meeting with all of his teachers and ask those who attended the conference to share with the others. Then they'll decide how they to incorporate the curriculum in their schools.

After watching the *Jesus Film*, one man said he felt shocked! He hadn't realized how Jesus lived—how He loved people and did such good, and set an example to all around Him regarding right and wrong. This man said, "I now feel motivated to do the same with my life."

Forgiveness is a critical characteristic taught in the curriculum. These two conferences brought out some heart-wrenching stories concerning forgiveness as God worked in several teachers' hearts.

Alfonso's countenance was one of despair as he challenged the love of God. He asked, "How do you forgive someone who has murdered a member of your family?" Through the testimony of Judith, a fellow teacher who had forgiven her nephew for killing her brother, Alfonso's heart softened. He did not want to discuss his family, and he did not share his Life Map. However, he did participate in a drama about the Prodigal Son and he wrote a beautiful description of the unconditional love of God in a lesson he developed on the last day. God brought Alfonso from despair to hope in three days.



General session during the Solola conference



I have the privilege of giving the opening talk for each conference: "The Heart of Teaching."



One of our small group leaders shared how a young teacher, Zita, learned the lesson of forgiveness:

“She was by far the youngest teacher in my circle. On Wednesday night, when I was filling out my Small Group Member Evaluation form, I had to circle ‘maybe’ on the question, ‘Is she a Christian?’ That day, she had expressed that she was very eager to use the curriculum, but she hadn’t said very much. On Friday, she was the last to share her Life Map. She shared how she had a pretty happy childhood. Then Zita told how her fiancée was murdered just one month before her wedding. Even though she was already pregnant, she did manage to graduate from school. She now works very hard as a single mom and teaches in two schools trying to make ends meet. She ended her Map

by saying that she knows that everything in her life, God has turned to good, and she said that although it had been difficult, Jesus had helped her forgive the men who killed her fiancée.”

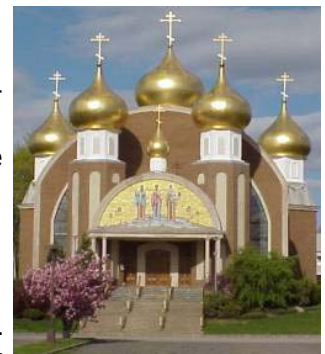


You could be in this picture next year. In 2008, I will lead conferences in Guatemala during the months of February, July, and November. Can you see yourself investing in the life of a Guatemalan teacher who can make a difference in a child's life? Give me call or contact me by email and join me on a trip that will impact a nation and new generation

Please pray for our upcoming trip to Russia, Sept. 20—Oct. 7.

I will lead two Dream Maker/Dream Breaker conferences in Kastromo and Volgograd. These are critical conferences for teachers who are desperate to reach Russian youth at this critical time. Alcohol, drug addiction, and cases of AIDS are rising at alarming rates.

Pray specifically that we will not be harassed by the Orthodox church and security services. Other organizations have been harassed recently and forced to leave because of pressures from the Orthodox Church and city security officials. Though the doors were once wide open in Russia, the country is at a crossroads. Now there is increasing pressures to limit outside influences. Teachers are eager to get the training, but officials are fearful and sometimes hostile because of the Orthodox resurgence.



Thank you, again, for your faithful prayers and support of this ministry. We are so grateful to have you all as part of our team. Knowing you care and are concerned about what God is doing around the world brings joy to our hearts.

Bob Wilson