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Dear Friends:

Imagine that you're facing an audience of 500 Guatemalan educators. Your PowerPoint presentation—bilingual, of course—is on the screen. Your interpreter is great, and you both have good microphones hooked into an outstanding sound system. It's presentation time, and you're on! But suddenly a transformer blows and the power is out **ALL OVER TOWN!**

That and more happened at the recent conferences in **Antigua** and **Jalapa**, Guatemala. We certainly faced a number of challenges as we taught teachers how to use the Bible-based morals and ethics curriculum. But we also found that in the face of great difficulties, God is always able to show Himself strong. With His help and some hastily-procured generators, I was able to present all of my talks on the Christian World View and why we should teach Character Education in the classroom.

I began this trip with a one-day follow-up conference in Guatemala City, sponsored by the Mayor of Mixco and his wife. Mixco is the largest and most heavily-populated district in Guatemala City, and these gracious officials are committed to our training *every teacher* in their district. They were present at our conference most of the day. God continued to bless, and we ended up ministering to nearly 1500 teachers in Mixco, Antigua, and Jalapa.



**Amilcar Rivera Mayor of Mixco addressed the teachers in Guatemala City**

### **The hand of God moved in our midst**

One of our small group leaders—in spite of trying to keep everything on a professional level in the small group sessions each afternoon—found that the people in her group became deeply interested in spiritual things. As barriers fell, they pulled her outside the conference facility to talk with her. *By the end of the week, she helped every one of her teachers to pray to trust Christ!*



**Morning plenary sessions—addressing the issues of Christian World View and Character Education—were held each day.**

One evening in Jalapa, a persistent visitor at our hotel demanded to meet immediately with a leader from our team! We were initially concerned, but then relieved to hear his words (paraphrased): "I am a pastor in a small village outside of Jalapa. My next-door neighbor is an influential person, a school administrator. ***She and her daughter—also a teacher—have done everything they could to hinder my ministry.*** They are both in your conference. Every night they have come to my house to ask me questions about the Bible and to show me the materials they have received. Our relationship and *the whole village has completely changed.* I wanted to come and tell you personally of the *impact* your conference has had."



One administrator in a small group was in charge of 70 schools. Imagine the impact of just that one person! He says he is committed to implementing as much of the training as possible. Even if he only shows the *JESUS Film for Children* in his schools, the impact will be incalculable.



**Workshop groups each afternoon provide teachers with the opportunities to talk about issues and collaborate on lesson plans that deal with Character Education.**



**Thousands of pounds of materials have to be moved to each new location when we start a new conference.**

**During the week, the local education ministry usually treats us to a cultural evening. We enjoy the break from our intense schedule.**

Thank you for your prayers and support of the incredible opportunity that God has opened up in Guatemala. Pray for our May/June Leadership Development Conference in Guatemala City—150 teachers from the last two years of conferences will be invited to a live-in, seven-day leadership conference where they will be exposed to leadership principles and in-depth discipleship. We pray that they will form into a solid core of teachers who will begin to reproduce their training in teachers in the smaller regions of Guatemala. Please pray with us that God will give our team wisdom to invest in the right teachers?

