

The Famine Has Ended in Central America

By Brad Thompson

Wow! What is happening in Central America? In twenty three years as a Bible School administrator I have never witnessed so many dynamic teachers. Teachers with a new found authority, following lesson plans, using unique styles of teaching; teachers with an anointing, leaving their students hungering for more.

For years our teachers in Central America have hungered to be more effective in the classroom and for our Bible Schools to be more productive. We have always said that the Bible School is the seed bed for ministry, but knew we were not reaching our potential in harvesting students for ministry. We were suffering a famine in the area of teacher training. Most nations held seminars for their teachers, but the majority ended up being pep talks and did little to cultivate teaching skills or put tools into the hands of the teachers to give them a more productive teaching ministry.

But the famine has ended in Central America and we have gone from hunger to abundance! What has happened? What has changed? The introduction of the Global Association of Theological Studies and its Faculty Development Program has poured out blessing on the parched land in the hearts and minds of our teachers.



For the past two years Faculty Development Seminars have been held in Central America. The first seminar sowed so many seeds of inspiration and possibilities in the teachers that in October of 2009 we had 197 teachers come to the seminars from seven nations. The GATS

theme of 'striving for excellence' set the pace throughout the teachings and workshops and is now firmly planted in the hearts of our teachers.

The harvest has already been beyond our projections:

1. The teachers are now teaching with course objectives and using lesson plans.
2. The wide variety of teaching styles taught and demonstrated in the seminars have been put to use in the classroom
3. The qualities of a good teacher, established and defined in the seminars, are being implemented and developed by our teachers.
4. Teachers are focusing on the 'final product' that we want to produce from our Bible School

5. Attendance in the Bible School in Guatemala is at an all time high – 363 students enrolled! A direct result of excellence in the classroom and the implementation of the GATS curriculum.
6. The countries of Nicaragua and Honduras have been blessed with new properties to build Bible School facilities on. I feel this is God's way of putting His stamp of approval on their renewed vision for training for ministry that has come through the teachers being involved in the GATS seminars.



Personally, I am seeing an enthusiasm in the forty-eight teachers in Guatemala that I have never seen before. They are more focused and professional in their approach and have adapted new teaching techniques. Many, who were not high school graduates, have now obtained their GED and others have taken college classes to get their teaching degree. Our faculty has risen to a much higher level; they have become more responsible teachers and are

showing pride in their teaching ministry. Our goal now is to be accredited through the national department of education.

A Bible School can have a nice facility and a great curriculum, but if the teachers are not equipped the program will not be productive. Faculty training empowers our teachers to equip our students to impact our nations. This is the harvest you will reap through the faculty development seminars offered by GATS.

The purpose of a Bible School is to train and equip for ministry, shape our future leaders and ensure a visionary church for the future, strong in doctrine and leadership. GATS sows into the lives of our teachers. New course materials being developed take Bible School curriculum to the next level. It's time to end the famine in our Bible Schools all over the world.