

Building Bridges

A CHANGE FOR CHILDREN PUBLICATION • SEPTEMBER 2000

From Education To Action...

The Value of Exceptions

By *Heloísa Speranza Modesto*;
CFCA Board Member

Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso has been credited with an internationally respected theory that explains underdevelopment. According to Cardoso's underdevelopment theory, developed countries control all of the resources – thus ensuring the dependency of the less developed countries. This theory, although widely accepted by the academic community, presumes the Southern nations and the working class to be victims who can do nothing but accept their subordinate situation.

Cardoso is now in his second consecutive term as the president of Brazil. During his tenure, Cardoso has lived by his theory and, "just like a victim", has accepted all of the impositions of international financial institutions such as the World Bank – exposing Brazil further to the liberal economy. In doing so, Cardoso has continued to support the Brazilian oligarchic class inside of the country. With the liberal economy, Brazil has observed massive privatization and reduced investment in education and health care. As a result, the social gap has become even wider.

Imagine you are a woman in Northeastern Brazil with six children. Your herd is dying because of lack of food, and you lose your annual opportunity to harvest beans because



Heloisa Modesto
Womens Community in Brazil

The [women] are acting so that one day they will be able to rest on their hammock, but teach their children a different story.

of the drought. You have to wake two hours earlier to search for water, and have to spend more time and energy stretching the little food available to meet your children's needs. The national Catholic church has raised money for the population affected by the drought, but the mayor of the municipality – who also controls the local church – has decided to use these

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Hope for Change in Inhapi

by Ricardo Acuña, CFCA Staff

Inhapi, located in the semi-arid interior of the state of Alagoas, Brazil, became an independent municipality in 1962. Since that time, the municipality has been controlled politically by the same family. The Malta family, which also controls three other municipalities in the region, maintains a firm grip on their power through corruption, coercion and bribery.

During the most recent extended drought in the region, much aid was made available by the church and the federal government. Because all of this aid was channelled through the municipality, most of it never reached the people most in need. Instead, it was hoarded by the Mayor and doled out exclusively in exchange for political favours and support. Those who did not pledge to support the Mayor and his family, or who had been critics of them in the past, simply did not receive any of the assistance that was due them. The municipality administers pension plans much the same way (in Brazil, the federal pension plan is administered by the municipalities) – only political supporters receive their pensions, everybody else’s gets endlessly tied up in bureaucracy and never processed.

The Malta family also accesses the services of “pistoleiros” (gun-slingers) regularly to intimidate and coerce political opponents and outspoken critics to cease and desist. The region has witnessed a number of assassinations and shootings in recent years. The Brazilian government has traditionally turned a blind eye to these activities because the Malta family can also deliver important financial and

electoral support to “friendly” candidates during federal elections.

During years of severe drought years, the people of the region have little choice. Either they accept the conditions of assistance imposed on them by the Malta family, or they face severe misery and possible starvation. This is the way that politics have been conducted in the region for decades – the people have become accustomed to this culture of corruption, and have learned how to use it to their advantage. They have become dependant on the hand-outs of the municipality, and don’t think twice about exchanging their political support for food or medicine.

This year however, there is a different feeling in Inhapi. I arrived there last month to discover that the rainy season had actually delivered a significant amount of rain this year. The landscape is green and lush, crops are growing well, and the people are happy and confident that this will be a good year

for them.

But people are also happy and hopeful for another reason. For the first time since 1962, they have an opportunity to bring about a significant political change in the region. With nation-wide municipal elections coming on October 1, the PT (the Workers’ Party of Brazil) has nominated Genivaldo Vieira da Silva as their candidate for mayor in Inhapi. Many of you will recognize Genivaldo’s name as a founder and former president of CEAPA (the Central Organization of Small Producers’ Associations of Alagoas). Change for Children and our sister organization St. Joe’s Save the Children Club have been supporting the work of CEAPA with small producers in the state of Alagoas for a number of years.

Genivaldo was illiterate until he was 15 years of age. He went on to work

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Genivaldo speaks to a community of supporters

Heloisa Modesto

The Value of Exceptions

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funds in exchange for votes. Your children get sick, and the federal government has sent basic medication to be donated to the needy people. But the mayor controls this medication and, again, exchanges it for votes.

Cardoso, touched by the harsh reality of those affected by the drought, creates temporary jobs for the men in the dry areas. The mayor's family also controls these jobs, and if you vote for their candidate – and if you are a man – you may get one. If you are a woman who does not have a husband (or if you have an alcoholic husband), and if you do not vote for the candidate favoured by the mayor's family, you are not going to receive any aid.

What would you do if you were a woman in that situation? What could you do? Your life is already so hard, considering your long daily chores. The easiest thing you could do would be to vote for the candidate supported by the mayor, so you could get the basic food the federal government donates monthly, the medicine, the jobs for the men of your family. This way, you could rest for the few hours of the day when you do not have to fetch water, treat your animals, take care of your children. You could lie on your hammock and enjoy your dependency. You could teach your children that this was the only alternative. The mayor probably has children as well, and probably will teach them to do just as he does. The mayor's children will learn that corruption is the way of the world, and that they should continue to enjoy the control his family has. How can we break this cycle? Where can we find signs of hope?

During the early 1980s, a group of French nuns – working with the Catholic Church – undertook incredible work with the rural communities of Inhapi, in Northeastern Brazil. Their work included the promotion of local nutritional alternatives and the return



Brazilian Boys Play by the Water to the use of traditional medicinal plants that had been replaced by commercialized remedies. They also called on the communities to organize themselves to fight the local political leaders that had monopolized all of the public resources in the area.

A group of women, who traditionally dedicate the most time to community and religious activities, became key players in the community organization process. In addition to the community organizations, the women started to organize grass roots women's movements in the area. The women would have regular meetings to discuss their common needs and establish paths to achieve their goals. Unfortunately, due to political pressure from the oligarchic local mayor, the two French nuns had to move from the area – and the extreme right reassumed the local Catholic Church. Since then, however, the community has established an annual meeting during International Women's Day (March 8).

Two years ago, during a CFCA internship in the community of Salão, Inhapi, I had the opportunity to participate with the local women's group over the course of several meetings. During these meetings this group was attempting to evaluate their needs and to reactivate the work of the women's group. They invited women from neighboring rural

Ricardo Acuña communities to join them in this mobilization. Their initial main goals were to lobby for the rights of rural women to receive pensions, to introduce alternative income-raising activities, and to establish skill-training workshops.

The women's group in Salão also dreamt of initiating a sewing project. During the Brazilian tour sponsored by Change for Children in 1998, 10 sewing machines were donated to the women's group. The Canadians on the tour also helped to pay for an instructor who taught the women to sew. Through this project, the women and teenage girls learned basic sewing skills that would allow them to generate an alternate income – in addition to making clothing for their families.

Two months ago, I had the opportunity to return to the community of Salão, and to be updated on the work of this women's group. I found that the sewing classes represented a start, an opportunity for them to meet on a weekly basis, fortifying their bonds with one another. These women are often too busy with their household activities to devote much time to organization efforts. Yet they give what little time they have, and they have said that – on meeting days –

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Hope for Change in Inhapi

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with the Movimento Sem Terra (the Landless Movement of Brazil), and eventually gathered with a group of land activists to form CEAPA. Through their work with CEAPA, Genivaldo and his colleagues have been committed to working for sustainable options for the small producers of his state. In the region of Inhapi, Genivaldo facilitated the process of communities getting organized, and receiving access to electricity and water. Because of his hard work, dedication and honesty, Genivaldo has gained a tremendous amount of respect and recognition throughout the state.

As a candidate, Genivaldo is committed to bringing honesty and transparency to the political processes in Inhapi. He is working hard to explain to people that the money they have received in exchange for political support in the past is theirs anyway. He is committed to a different type of campaign, one that gains support based on the alternatives he can provide for the community rather than the goods and resources he can provide to individuals. The impact of the amount of resources available to community programs through the elimination of

corruption alone would mean a significant change to the people of Inhapi.

Genivaldo's popularity rating in recent polls is currently at 65% of the popular vote. He is well poised to hand the Malta family their first political defeat ever. Of course, the challenges faced by Genivaldo between now and October 1 are immense. He must be able to turn the preference expressed by people in political polls into actual votes. He also faces serious threats to his safety and that of his family, as history has shown that the Malta family is not reluctant to maintain their power through violence and coercion. Finally, he faces the prospect of running a campaign against a wealthy corrupt family on the minimal resources he is able to raise from other small producers.

Even if Genivaldo were not to win, the importance of candidacy cannot be overlooked. It is the first time in Inhapi's history that they have been offered a viable political alternative, and it gives them hope for significant political change in the future. It demonstrates that the communities in the interior of Alagoas have become organized to the point where they can now vie for political power

for their leaders and hope to have a greater influence in the decisions that affect them. Finally, it has also shown people that politics can be done in a different way than they have experienced throughout their lives.

In late July, a group of friends gathered in Edmonton to raise some funds for Genivaldo's campaign. Through these efforts, they were able to send US\$1,200 to Brazil for the campaign. Genivaldo wrote to us after the fundraiser that his candidacy is not just his, but that it belongs to all the small producers of Alagoas and to all the people in Canada that have supported their work over the last 15 years. We are maintaining close contact with our friends in Brazil to find out about the progress of the campaign, and will fill you in on the results in the next issue of Building Bridges. Hopefully, the headline over the article will read "Long-time Activist Elected Mayor".*

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they usually wake up three hours earlier than usual to be able to get breakfast and lunch ready before leaving for the women's meeting. They seem to not mind the extra effort needed to get to the meetings. On the days of the meetings the women spend the entire day together and have a kind of potluck.

The sewing activity has allowed the women to cover the costs of their organization, and has provided them with a little money. The women reported that they enjoyed this project because it gave them a reason to begin to meet and to learn together. The group responsible for the sale of the

clothing walks for the entire day around other rural communities. During these trips, these women have a chance to talk with one another about their women's group experiences, and they invite others to organize themselves as well. One of the participants said: "*Se nao tem encontros, a gente nunca tem tempo pra se divertir, conversar com as amigas e falar da vida da gente.*" ("If not for our meetings, we would not have time to meet with our friends and talk about our lives.")

Some months ago, three women from this group traveled to Brasilia – during a National Mobilization of Rural Women – to demand their pension rights.

Through the positive experiences of this women's group, several other women's groups have since been formed. The women are getting to learn of similarities among their struggles, and they are learning about their civil rights. They are acting so that one day they will be able to rest on their hammock, but teach their children a different story. They are learning a way out of the dependency cycle about which Cardoso wrote his dissertation. Maybe Cardoso should go to Northeastern Brazil to learn from these women, learn how to become an exception to the dependency theory he created – and which he seems to have become a victim of in his role as President of Brazil.*



By Chris Peters; CFCA Staff

I was lying in hammock on the island of Ometepe, overlooking Lake Nicaragua, trying to keep a parrot from eating my sandals, and wondering how I could possibly write about the last five weeks, when my thoughts were interrupted by the invasion of the mud monsters. After 5 hours, Darren was one of the first to return from the hike to the lagoon at the top of Volcan Maderas. He was absolutely beaming beneath the slime that covered him from head to toe. His greatest joy came not from the beauty of the mountainside or the exhilaration of a challenging hike, but from the fact that "everybody made it to the top." Even those - especially those - who thought they could never do it. Those who were stronger helped those who had a tougher time, with both physical assistance and words of encouragement. As each filthy, exhausted tour member - Canadian, Nica or Salvadoran - straggled onto the veranda, cheers rang out: "You did it!"

In these moments came the greatest expression of our journey. The concepts we had talked about, tried to learn, tried to understand, were now manifest in flesh, and sweat and mud. Working together, helping each other, we could overcome a great challenge; our happiness was not only for our own achievements but also for those of our compañeros.

We must become the change we want to see.

How far we had traveled from our last

Youth Tour 2000: The Meaning of Peace

orientation: in time, in miles and in spirit. At Pigeon Lake the significance of what we were about to undertake was too much to deal with; our concerns were with packing and shots and passports. "You're going down there to paint?" someone had been asked. "What possible good will that do?" It was a question to which even we didn't have a clear answer at the time.

The first night in Estelí we were filled with anxiety. Who were these people? Would we be able to work together? "Sarita" later recalled being led through the dark streets that night by a strange boy, looking for purified water, neither speaking a word - she was a little afraid of him. That boy later became known as "Super" Mario, one of the most loved and admired of our Nica participants. At our welcome party the second night, Canadians sat on one side, Nicas on the other, brought together finally with dancing.

From there on we grew into a family, despite our difficulty with language, through painting, through dancing, through songs and jokes, through long hours on a crowded, stinky bus, and longer hours working under a blazing sun. We gained more brothers and sisters along the way, our group ranged from 23 to 31 people. Nicas and Salvadorans learned about each other's countries, as well as more about their own, city kids learned about rural life and vice versa. For the Canadians, no amount of classroom study could have taught us what we gained through being there.

We have never experienced war, but we touched it slightly through the stories and the faces of the dead

children of the Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs in Estelí. Through the photos of the tortured, the mutilated, the assassinated at the Romero Museum; and through the passion and songs of the people attending a Vigil to commemorate the massacre of student protestors in San Salvador. We saw poverty and injustice up close - a lack of respect for human rights, of access to health care, education, and employment with dignity - and the devastating effects these have. We came to better understand the struggles faced by our Central American counterparts, and their efforts to create positive change. We witnessed the Talleres group in action; visited health and agricultural projects in Usulután; a recycling/craft making project in La Libertad; and INPRHU projects to help working children in the markets of Managua. We visited the barrios and project houses of some of our new friends, and their communal school, which the government is trying to shut down. We were welcomed into Erick's home, where his sister lied injured from an attack by gang

*Hands joined in a circle
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peace.*

members a few nights earlier.

Through it all we painted: our canvas mural in Estelí, and permanent murals on churches in the villages of Jiñocúo in northern Nicaragua, and La Noria in El Salvador. Along the way we collected panels from youth groups throughout both countries. As the project grew with the completion of each of the permanent

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Announcing ...

Just **Christmas 2000!**

A Global Crafts Marketplace

Nov. 17-18 at

The Prince of Wales Armouries

10440 - 108A Avenue

Friday Nov. 17

6:30pm - 9:30 p.m.

Saturday Nov. 18

9:30am - 4:30 p.m.

Crafts and other worldly goods, live entertainment and delicious finger foods & refreshments available!

Just Christmas

(from "justice at Christmas")

is an alternative global marketplace

for quality crafts and other goods.

Market participants are philanthropic

not - for - profit organizations

whose mandate is to foster global awareness and to support international development projects.

Admission is free

*- but **donations** are encouraged (thanks!)*



For more information please call 474-6058



Canadian Youth Tour Participants 2000



Mural Painting in Nicaragua



Youth Tour 2000

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murals, a mini-exhibition in San Miguel, El Salvador, and the large exhibitions in San Salvador, Estelí and Managua, so did our understanding of the importance of our work. The expressions of hope in each new panel, and the passionate words of

Finally Ometepe, an island of peace, a chance to slow down, to reflect on what we had experienced, and what lay ahead of us. A time of exhaustion and exuberance, of happiness that we were all together, and of sadness because we knew our time together was coming to

Within each of us had come a change, we had begun to live the ideals of the world we want to see. This was the true meaning of Painting Peace.

the people in each community we visited, added to the sense of responsibility we now felt - responsibility to share the stories of these communities, their difficulties, and the possibilities for change. With each step came a growing understanding of how we were connected to the problems, and to the solutions. Inspired by the groups we met who were working for change, particularly the members of Talleres, our commitment to work for social justice was strengthened.

an end. Hands joined in a circle under the stars, we expressed what our journey meant to us: unity, solidarity, friendship, family, love, and peace. We had knocked down all barriers between us and gained a certainty that by working together, we could accomplish great things. Within each of us had come a change, we had begun to *live* the ideals of the world we want to see. This was the true meaning of Painting Peace. And the first step on the next phase of our journey: to continue to spread this message of peace until our visions become reality.*

Reflections from Central America

Sarah and Joel were two of the nine Alberta participants on this summer's Painting Peace tour to Central America

Sarah Shaughnessy ~ July 18, 2000

*“OBRAS...
NO PALABRAS”
(actions... not words)*

Empty promises for next year’s presidential campaign that bears an uncanny parallel to our tour. We have found ourselves stripped of language only to discover that it is as much a crutch as it is a tool — that you can build a friendship on the foundation of a secret handshake, of a good song, or a shared laugh. That you don’t need words to teach someone how to salsa, or make brown paint, or fish with a net. That if you care about someone, you can give them a necklace, or draw them a picture, or sing them a song on their birthday morning.

No, we haven’t spoken to Nicaragua, but we have whispered a joke in her ear. We have swum in her rivers and danced

in her streets, and tickled the buildings with paint. And we have not been denied the full measure of her beauty; we have tasted sweet fruit, and held the hands of children, and felt the relief of a long-awaited rain.

In the, past twelve days we have darted and weaved our way through the dirty streets of Managua, painted away our days in Estelí, and danced through Leon. Now we rest in the cradle, (or should I say hammock?) of Jiñocúao, where the only traffic is that of the chickens through the kitchens, and the days are spent with a paintbrush, and a cold bottle of coke, and a mid-day swim in the river.*

Joel Rhein ~ July 27, 2000

When I first arrived in central America had no idea of what to anticipate I thought the trip would consist of five weeks of mural painting and afterwards the group would pack up and head home.

I did not expect to experience an earthquake, nor did I expect the thirty-five degree weather. I did not anticipate on being surrounded by street children asking for scraps while I ate my lunch. I had no idea that Leon and Estelí would be the most beautiful cities on the face of this earth. I did not expect that I would become so attached to the people of Talleres and Jiñocúao. I love all of them. I was not anticipating swimming in a warm river in a tropical place while above a cold sunshower passed over. Jiñocúao is a place from a fairy tale. I did not expect to be touched by the projects of Oscar Gamez, La Maroma and Nueva Esperanza. They changed the way I look at the world. I did not expect to learn about a people and a culture full of passion, resistance and hope; or to learn about a revolution that shaped the people of Nicaragua. Even after all this I still have no idea of what lies ahead.*



Painting Peace Exhibition in Estelí, Nicaragua, with Youth Tour Participants

Chris Peters

Thoughts from Abroad:

By Kyle Fulton - CFCIA Intern; Lima, Peru

I promised I would keep you up to date on my adventure abroad, but how to sum up the month I have spent in Lima thus far? There are so many tales to tell, experiences to share, realizations, emotions, and the list goes on.

I spent my first two weeks traveling two hours each way out to Carabayllo meeting the people from other organizations with whom CIDEPSA works and the people from the community. Needless to say, I had many a profound experiences during this time. On my first trip out, we were there to weigh and measure children from the district in order to access their level of health. Almost every child was suffering from some level of malnutrition and scabies, many had respiratory infections and chronic diarrhoea. One boy was so stunted that although he was 2 years old he appeared to be about one and had yet to walk. The most inspiring thing though is that this does not dampen their spirit. Every time there is a reunion the Senoras and children are laughing, playing tricks, telling jokes, rushing about and having a good time.

I was here in Lima during the inauguration ceremony of Peru's president Fujimori. I am sure you heard about the subsequent rioting, destruction of property, confrontations between protesters and police, and unfortunately the 6 dead and many wounded. Well, I was not at the march on the 28th when this all happened but I did attend the march the two days before hand and was astounded by how positive and peaceful it was. There are many rumours being tossed around about pro-Fujimori supporters having infiltrated and initiated the violence, such as the bombing of the National Bank in which the six workers perished. Each passing

CFCIA Interns Report

day brings strength to these rumours and is turning them into fact. A few of these enlightening facts are; that one of the fellows chucking the "Molotov" bomb is wearing police combat boots-not a common shoe, an independent engineer stated it was physically impossible for the few bombs to have had such a devastating effect and that his examination of the building showed that it was an interior explosion (far from where the bombs were) that was the culprit, the water supply was cut in the building and for the two

I have had many moments of clarity here, most often when I have least expected it.

surrounding blocks- with no plausible explanation- impeding firefighters to get the blaze under control, this especially seems odd on a day in which officials knew there could be problems-being that this area was in the heart of the protests.

I have had many moments of clarity here, most often when I have least expected it. On second night of the march, there we were, three foreigners surrounded by thousands upon thousands of Peruvians who were chanting anti-Fujimori slogans, blowing whistles, honking horns, and clapping. In other words, celebrating their unanimous decision to come out and demonstrate to the government that they opposed the bogus sham that is being called democracy. It was wonderful. We were constantly under siege from friendly Peruvians thanking us for our support, having them explain Fujimori's ten-year legacy to us or interpret the various signs depicting

crimes that have occurred under his direction. Then I noticed a small girl who appeared at our side. Crouching down to chat with her she told me about her life. She is one of ten brothers and sisters, she has no father but has a mother and a set of grandparents who love her. She cleans car windows for nickels and is not sure if she is seven or eight, but knows she did not get to celebrate her birthday this year. She is only ever scared when her grandfather beats her. All of this was told to me very matter of a fact, and that is what is so sad. She was not begging or soliciting sympathy, rather she wanted to know why everyone was gathered together and I just happened to be the first one to talk with her. I bought her some peanuts and told her about Canada and snow.

It has been a busy time for CIDEPSA. Last month we had two reunions where children were weighed, measured and given protein cookies if needed, a session with the mothers of these children to provide information about nutrition, two meetings with the eighty-odd health delegates on the subject of asthma and respiratory problems, our weekly reunions with the adolescent girls and the children, and planning sessions for the month to come. This month we are focusing on uterine cancer and will be involved in a Pap smear campaign, as well as supporting various other initiatives, such as a workshop on sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. I have met with the fellow in charge of the CIDA "Local Initiative" fund and with the help of CIDEPSA (my Spanish is much better but not yet perfect!) we are submitting a proposal. We are focusing on the adolescent girls and the children. The course for the children revolves around the rights of the child, as defined

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Monseñor Romero:

Alive After Twenty Years of Martyrdom

by Delmy Garcia:
CFCA President

Twenty years ago the horror that only a war can convey moved to its maximum expression in El Salvador, but this was just an announcement of what was to come. On March 24, 1980, government sympathizers assassinated Monseñor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, beloved Bishop of El Salvador. Before and after his death, rivers of blood flowed from union and

political members, and any other Salvadoran that looked suspicious. Their bodies were found decapitated or simply *disappeared* by the death squads. It was like the daily bread in many Salvadoran families.

Monseñor Romero became the voice of the silent majority who lived in fear of repression.

“It is necessary to accompany those who struggle for their freedom.”

February 15, 1980.

They wanted to kill his voice but they could not kill the echo, and with time it has multiplied. El Salvador can no longer contain these reverberations; they have surpassed its borders, gone beyond national frontiers, crossed oceans to other continents.

On March 24' 2000, I had the privilege

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CFCA Interns Report - Continued

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under the UN declaration. We are creating a book with them on various subjects that they feel are important such as health, education and the environment. For the girls we are focusing more on building self-esteem, gaining skills, and sex education/pregnancy prevention. We hope that when the courses are over (provided we get the money) we will be able to paint a mural showcasing their hopes and dreams for the future, as well as displaying to the community what they have learned. So, there you go! Never a dull moment in Lima-Land, unless you want to talk about the weather! I promise to write again but until then I want to thank the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Change For Children (CFCA) for providing me with this incredible opportunity. It has opened my eyes, mind and heart to many things and although it is often challenging it is changing me for the better.

C i a o !

Con amor, Kyle Fulton.*

by Yamit More – CFCA Intern; Tierra Blanca, El Salvador

My last two months in Central America have felt very divided between two projects. My first three weeks were spent getting acclimatized to life in Tierra Blanca, a small community in the department of Usulután, El Salvador. Those three weeks were a roller coaster ride. To begin with I moved into the top floor of a church. Being Jewish this was a big leap into the

*The next five months
will be a great
adventure*

unknown. I felt a little like the hunchback of Notre Dame.

The community was very eager to start me working. Within the week I was holding workshops with the kids, preparing Painting Peace panels, and preparing for the youth tour. Then next thing I knew I was whisked away to Managua to begin a new adventure on the Painting Peace tour. The youth tour was quite a whirlwind. Getting to know

new places and faces, learning to paint, translating, and making intense new friendships. Most importantly I got a renewed sense of solidarity and hope, which I believe, will spread through Canada as the muralism project

c o n t i n u e s .

I have recently returned to Tierra Blanca and have begun the process of figuring out what it is the community expect from me and what my role will be in the next five months. Work with the youth has already begun. We have big plans to stage a performance soon. As well, I will be working with La Maroma, a local agricultural cooperative, supporting their work on a new irrigation project sponsored by Change for Children.

The next five months will be a great adventure. It will be a time of getting to know a new community, and learning about a different way of life. Needless to say, I'm very excited.*

Mons. Romero

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to be part of the 20th anniversary celebration in San Salvador, El Salvador. More than thirty thousand people came to commemorate the resurrection of Bishop Romero. They were more than two thousand delegates from all over the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. Radio and television stations from around the world and people from everywhere mixed together to celebrate and to witness the voice that still lives within us.

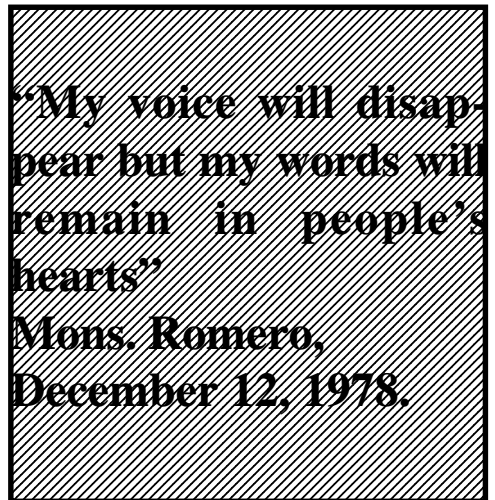
The entire week was enlightened by reflections by followers from around the world on Monseñor's words and remembrances of the other martyrs. These reflections challenged citizens, professionals, campesinos and students alike to follow their steps and orient our lives to work for the liberation of the poor and repressed majorities. For the Salvadoran people Monseñor Romero's 20th anniversary was not only a fervour celebrating his

martyrdom; it was also a fervour to take Monseñor Romero's words and make them alive. As he had said, "If they kill me I will rise again in the Salvadoran people" March 1980.

The celebration took place in front of the Cathedral of San Salvador, the site where hundreds of mourners were brutally murdered during the funeral of Monseñor Romero twenty years ago. At the celebration I found the spirit so strong that it seemed only the walls and the street in front of the cathedral, and those of us who witnessed the murders, would remember the events from then. It was a special time for me. Despite all the social problems that El Salvador faces, that night I, and anyone else who lived through the repression, felt free. We were free to express what Monseñor Romero meant to us through beautiful songs, poems and words without a worry that the army would come to get us, or that the government snipers were in position to

attack us, or that helicopter gun ships would chase us. There was none of that!

Monseñor Romero and all the martyrs continue to illuminate our ethical and Christian options, and to show us that it is possible to live with truth, generosity and commitment to the lives of the people.*



Youth Summit 2000

Creating a Culture of Peace



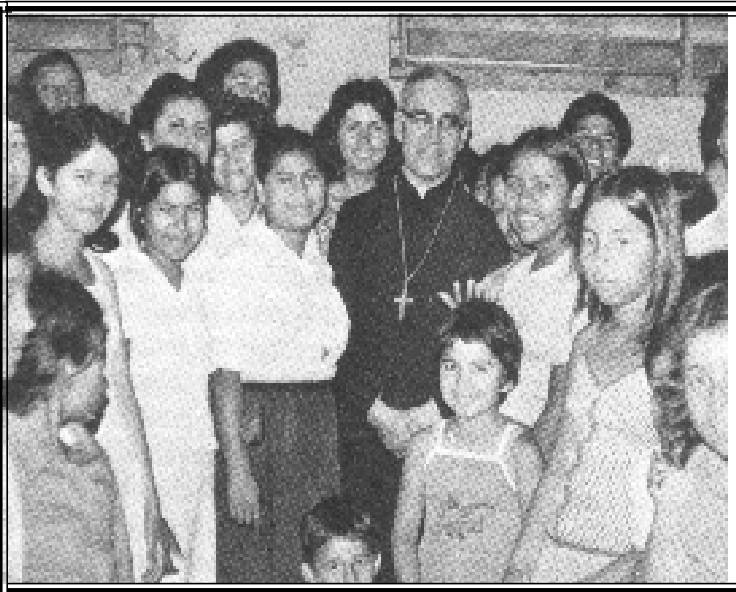
by Joey Lee Son; CFCA Staff

The Year 2000 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year for the Culture of Peace. To commemorate and celebrate this designation, Change for Children has joined forces with other local NGOs to co-host the *Youth Summit 2000 – Creating a Culture of Peace*.

Introduced originally by Aga Khan Foundation Canada during the national tour of the HOPE Exhibition, the Youth Summit has evolved to become a very important component of Change for Children's Education Program. This year we are co-hosting the 4th evolution of the Summit, which has been expanded to four days of programming encompassing six grade levels.

Partnering again with Edmonton YMCA as well as the Learning Network, the Youth Summit will be held at the Arts Barns in Old Strathcona from November 14-15, 2000 for Junior High youth and from November 16-17, 2000 for Senior High youth. Each two-day event will encompass speakers, workshops and artistic presentations on Culture of Peace themes. These themes will be portrayed and interpreted through a variety of medium including: mural painting, video, song and photography. The week will conclude with a public celebration on Friday night, featuring a concert/dance to showcase the efforts of the Summit and the shared vision of Peace for the new millennium.

For more information on the Youth Summit 2000 – Creating a Culture of Peace, please contact Joseph Lee Son at 434-5095 or jleeson@web.ca



"Whatever political issue we take up we must look at it in terms of the people...the poor." Archbishop Romero
Pictures and Quotation from "Archbishop Romero, Martyr of Salvador" Erdozain, Placido, Orbis Books, 1981, U.S.A.

Calendar of Events

September 9

Arts Barns 7:00pm

"Instruments of Change" Our annual benefit concert and silent auction!

October 19

City Hall 11:30 -1:30pm

Official launch of the Jubilee 2000 Year Three
"Renewal of the Earth" campaign

October 21

CFCA - 9:00 am

Change for Children Board Meeting

November 2-5

The Citadel Theatre

Global Visions Film Festival For more information call: 414-1052

November 10

Churchill Square

"A Taste of Truth" Fighting Poverty in Edmonton with a *Stone Soup*
in Churchill Square; For more info call Deanna: 990-1840

November 14-17

Arts Barns

Youth Summit 2000 – Creating a Culture of Peace
Summit for Junior and Senior High students featuring speakers,
workshops, and creative and interactive explorations of Culture of Peace themes.

November 18-19

The Armories

Just Christmas Sale Support artisans and co-operatives around the world
while doing your Xmas shopping!

November 17-19

U of A campus

"Building a Post-Corporate Society" A Parkland Institute Conference
For more information call: 492-8558

November 20-23

Arts Barns

"Culture of Peace" week Youth of the Americas Peace Mural will be on display!

December 2

CFCA - 9:00 am

Change for Children Board Meeting



Instruments of Change

Saturday September 9th at the Arts Barns
(10330-84 Ave.)

Our 4th Annual Benefit Concert and large scale silent auction. Featuring:

The Kit Kat Trio * Los Caminantes
Kris Demeanor * Wajjo Drummers

50-50 Raffle, Door Prizes, Latin American Food * Doors at 7pm, Music Starts at 8pm

CFCA members \$10 advance / \$15 at the door
Non-members \$12 advance / \$15 at the door
Children 12 & under free

Licensed Event but All Ages Welcome * Photo ID Required

Call 448-1505 for more info * Tickets Available At:

Belgravia Books (7601-115St.), Blackbyrd Myoozik (10442-852 Ave.),
Earth's General Store (10832-82 Ave.), Orlando Books (10123-82 Ave.)
and Change for Children Office (St. Michael's School, 10545-92 St.)

Comments?

We appreciate receiving your comments, suggestions or criticisms about this publication or it's content. Please mail, fax, or e-mail your letters to us at:

CFCA, 10545 - 92 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1V1.
Fax: (780) 448-1507
email: cfca@web.net

Building Bridges

is published three times annually by Change for Children as part of its education program. The views expressed by the publication are not necessarily those of Change for Children Association.

Editing & Layout: Jania Teare & Cherie Klassen



While **CHANGE FOR CHILDREN ASSOCIATION (CFCA)** highly values its partnerships with communities of various religious and political persuasions, we are a non-sectarian, non-partisan society. Our development projects are located primarily in Central and South America, Mexico and the Philippines. Types of projects, their cost and priority are determined by the indigenous co-operants living in these countries, according to their current needs.



Please support CFCA's Important Work with a CHARITABLE DONATION

Please find enclosed a tax-creditable donation to be used in the following areas:

- \$ 15.00 To purchase a 2000 Change for Children membership (non tax receiptable)
- \$ _____ Undesignated - to be used as needed by Change for Children Association
- \$ _____ Your general project account (supporting a variety of projects as required)
- \$ _____ You projects in the country of _____
(current projects are in Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Peru, Brazil)
- \$ _____ Your Development Education Program here in Canada
- \$ _____ **Total amount enclosed.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Change for Children Association (CFCA), 10545 - 92 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1V1
Phone (780) 448-1505 Fax (780) 448-1507 Email: cfca@web.net www.changeforchildren.org
Registered Charitable Organization No. 11884 9496 RR0001

Support Change for Children with a PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN

I/we authorize Change for Children Association to begin automatic monthly withdrawals from my/our bank account as specified on the enclosed cheque marked "VOID". This authority is to remain in effect until further notification from myself/ourselves or Change for Children.

Please make a withdrawal in the amount of \$ _____ on the _____ th of each month.

_____/_____
_____/_____

Signature(s) of Account Holder / Date Signed