



History Shows Change is Possible

Today we are witnessing, on every continent, a flowering of social movements, economic and social initiatives, and cultural opposition against social disintegration.

- François Houtart, Director
The Centre Tricontinental, Belgium

Idealistic. Naive. Left-wing nuts. This is the way the world works and it's not going to change.

Tell that to Emily Murphy, Rosa Parks or Nelson Mandela. Going back a century, the world was a very different place. Over the years, many people who were once considered on the fringe - some even criminal - later came to be regarded as heroes. Some change was achieved by peaceful means, in other cases violence came when all other hope was gone. Some struggles lasted for years, others for decades. Some continue today. But social change *did* occur, often against overwhelming odds.

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"An Arrest when the Suffragettes Began a Riot in Parliament, London" (1912)

Photo credit: Brown Brothers, published in "Pictures of the Times" © 1996 by The Museum of Modern Art, New York

WHEN WOMEN WEREN'T PERSONS

In 1914, a statement by Manitoba premier Roblin reflected the attitude towards women at the time:

"Will anyone say that she would be better as a wife and mother because she could go and talk on the streets about local or dominion politics? I disagree. The mother that is worthy of the name and of the good affection of a good man has a hundredfold more influence in molding and shaping public opinion round her dinner table than she would have in the marketplace, hurling her eloquent phrases to the multitude."

Oddly enough, Manitoba was the first province to grant women the right to vote in 1916. Canadian women won the right to vote in federal elections in 1918 - but they still couldn't hold public office. The rea-

son? They were not considered 'persons' under the British North America Act. (Or, according to British Common Law, "persons only in terms of pains and penalties, and not rights and privileges.")

Five prairie women (Emily Murphy, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby and Nellie McClung) refused to accept that law and challenged it in 1928. After six weeks, the Supreme Court of Canada decided that no, women could not be considered persons. The petition then went to the Privy Council of England, and on October 18, 1929, the Lord Chancellor announced, that "yes, women are persons." The Famous 5 had secured the right for women to serve as elected officials at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.



“We, as a people, all felt discouraged with our situation, but we had not been united enough to conquer it. Now, the fearfulness and bitterness was turning into power... So the people started organizing, protesting, and walking. Many thousands were willing to sacrifice the comfort and convenience of riding the bus. This was the modern mass movement we needed.”

“One day after the boycott ended, I rode a nonsegregated bus for the first time.” *Rosa Parks, in “Quiet Strength”*

A SIMPLE ACT CHANGES A NATION

From the 1880s to the 1960s, most U.S. states enforced racial segregation through “Jim Crow” laws. Hatred, discrimination, and acts of violence against African Americans were common, and their murders went unsolved. In *Without Sanctuary*, historian Leon F. Litwack writes that at least 4,742 African Americans were tortured, hanged or burned to death between 1882 and 1968. Their ‘offenses’ could simply be failing to step aside for a white person or protesting a lynching.

Tired of the injustice and oppression, a seamstress named Rosa Parks felt she “could no longer sit passively by... A better day had to come.” On December 1, 1955, her resolve was put to the test.

It was the custom for blacks to move further back on the bus if the white section was filled. On that night, a white man got on the bus and Rosa was ordered to move back. She refused. “I knew there was a possibility of being mistreated, but an opportunity was being given to me to do what I had asked of others. I knew someone had to take the first step.”

With this action, Rosa Parks became the “mother of the civil rights movement... she set in motion a chain of events that were felt throughout the United States. Her quiet, courageous act changed America and redirected

the course of history.” (*Gregory J. Reid in “Quiet Strength”*)

Rosa was arrested, found guilty and ordered to pay a fine and court costs. On the day of her trial, December 5, 1955, the Montgomery Improvement Association was formed to start a bus boycott, and led by an emerging young minister - Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. For 381 days, blacks in the city of Montgomery, Alabama, either walked or arranged their own rides. The boycott ended on December 21, 1956, after the U.S. Supreme Court declared bus segregation illegal.

The years that followed saw thousands of courageous people join together to demand equal rights for all. After nearly a decade of nonviolent protests and marches – from the bus boycott to the student-led sit-ins of the 1960s to the March on Washington in 1963 – Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, guaranteeing basic civil rights for all Americans, regardless of race.

FROM PROTESTER TO PRESIDENT

In 1944, a young man named Nelson Mandela joined the African National Congress in South Africa, and committed himself to a non-violent struggle for the liberation of his people from the policies of Apartheid. He was arrested and imprisoned in



1962 for ‘advocating sabotage.’

Both internal and international pressure finally brought about the demise of Apartheid, and on February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was released after 27 years in prison. Three years later he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. And in 1994, in the country’s first real democratic elections, Mandela, the former student protester and political prisoner, became President of South Africa.

This November, despite opposition from an MP who labeled him a communist and a terrorist, Mandela became only the second person in Canadian history to be awarded an honorary Canadian Citizenship.

In the struggle for social justice today, we can look to these people for inspiration, and recognize that our small, individual actions can indeed lead to great change, despite those who would tell us otherwise.



GIVE A YIP. GIVE A YOP!

We're all familiar with Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. But have you ever seen his *Horton Hears a Who?* Check it out.

The story begins with Horton the elephant hearing a faint cry for help. He discovers that there's a whole world in peril - a world of tiny Whos hidden on a dust speck. Horton takes it upon himself to assist the Whos, a decision that is not welcomed by the mainstream society in which he lives. No one believes his story. They say he's crazy and something must be done about him. They engage the Wickersham Brothers to silence him and to "boil that dust speck." But Horton remains dedicated and struggles to help his little friends, because "A person's a person no matter how small."

Horton and Dr. Whovey realize that to save the Who's world, the Whos must make themselves heard. They all begin to make as much noise as possible, but it's still not enough - until they find "a shirker named JoJo." JoJo decides to give a Yop.

"That yop, that one small extra yop put it over. Finally, at last, from that speck on that clover, their voices were heard ringing clear through the air.

**"The people had spoken,
no matter how small, and
their whole world was saved
by the smallest of all."**

Thank YOU! Volunteers & Donors

At this time of year we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to those individuals that keep Change for Children such a vibrant and thriving organization. Through your efforts, whether it is generous financial support of our projects and programs, or countless hours of volunteer work, Change for Children has been able to continue to walk in solidarity with our Southern partners, joining them on the path towards fairness and human dignity globally. We are all brought together by our shared belief that we have the responsibility and the privilege to work for a change in both the attitudes and conditions that perpetuate social injustice and poverty. Without your help, hope, and love, we would not be able to carry out this work. Together, we can. Thank you.

We would like to acknowledge all of our donors. Without your on-going support, Change for Children would not exist. You are the life-blood of our organization.

We would also like to thank our volunteers. You sat on the CFCA Board of Directors and various committees; helped out around the office and at the garage sale; ran our 25th Anniversary Celebration; promoted our Nicaraguan Speaker tour, sold Peace Calendars, and worked our casino nights and CFCA tables at the Global Visions Festival; Just Christmas, and various other events. We are proud that you are the public face of Change for Children.

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Alyssa Fraser	James Morrissey	Paul Pucylo
Aimee Grover	Jania Teare	Percy Yap
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Gustavo Zayas	Morna Fraser	Vadim Sebeykin
Heloisa Modesto	Nasser Tahbaz	Vanessa Bailey
Ian Mulder	Nicole Smith	Zosha Dicastri

Please accept our sincerest apologies if we accidentally omitted any volunteer. We do appreciate the gifts of time, talent and resources from all of our community.

The Effects of September 11 In Nicaragua

On the morning of September 11 many Nicaraguans, just like people in other countries of the world, awoke listening to and watching the news of the collision of three passenger planes into the twin towers of New York and the Pentagon.

The news produced a massive wave of commentaries. People could be seen in homes, work places, on street corners, and in various public and private places throughout Nicaragua discussing what had happened. Nobody could believe what they were seeing and hearing – it was not possible that someone had attacked two of the principle symbols of financial and military power in the United States, causing thousands of deaths.

In general, all of us commented that we felt bad for all the innocent people that lost their lives in the disaster and empathized with the families of the victims. But at the same time, although we do not condone the actions of those responsible for the disaster, we see the events of September 11 as a powerful signal directed at the government of the United States. A message to the people of the United States and their political leaders that they should reflect on the actions of their different governments against countries in Latin America and other parts of the world. Actions which have brought death, destruction, anguish, underdevelopment, hunger, misery and suffering in those of us who have lived through them.

As well, many of us Nicaraguans felt a sense of injustice at seeing the global reaction that this disaster provoked. But the unjust thing is not that events like those of September 11 provoke a global reaction, but rather that natural and man-made disasters and catastrophes like these, and some on an even larger scale, occur frequently throughout the world captur-



The Gallery of the Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs in Estelí: a memorial to their sons and daughters who died fighting "the war waged by America on Nicaragua"

ing only a few seconds of news in the international media, and go unnoticed by the world, which does not react, or cry, or raise alarm, nor is it affected in any way as everything happens thousands of kilometers away from where they are.

"catastrophes like these occur frequently throughout the world... and go unnoticed by the world, which does not react, or cry, or raise alarm"

Aside from the emotional impact of the events in the United States, some Nicaraguan economists predict that this disaster will also bring negative consequences to the world economy and in turn to poor countries like Nicaragua that support a portion of their economic reserves and stability primarily with family remissions originating from the United States. Although there are no concrete statistics in this regard, it is estimated that, annually, US \$600 to US \$800 million enter the country in the form of family remissions. It is believed that, should the US economy enter into a

deep depression, the Nicaraguan labour force in that country will feel the first blow, as their work tends to be menial and manual. Many of these workers will lose their jobs, which will result in less income for their families in Nicaragua.

Furthermore, there is the fact that at the time of the events in the United States Nicaragua found itself less than two months away from presidential elections. These events had a significant influence when it came time for people to decide which political party or platform to cast their votes for. A few days after the news of the airliners crashing into the important symbols of the United States, the governing party (Liberal Alliance PLC), headed by then Nicaraguan President Arnoldo Alemán, scored political points from the anguish of the American people by reminding voters that Sandinista candidate Daniel Ortega "once bragged shamelessly of having friends such as Khadafy (Moammar) and Hussein (Saddam)."

In this way the Liberals mounted a dirty campaign against the FSLN and the Convergence which brought together able people from a diversity of ideological backgrounds who were prepared to work to move Nicaragua

forward. The Liberals, through their dirty campaign which was visible repeatedly on various communications media, filled the Nicaraguan people with fear by trying to link the FSLN with people and groups that the United States had labeled as terrorists and, consequently, as their enemies.

This fear became evident on November 4, when with 90% of those eligible to vote casting ballots in the presidential elections, the FSLN lost by more than 10 points to the Liberal Party.

"Nicaraguan society in general prefer to be with empty stomachs... than live with uncertainty or fear of a supposed war"

But the Liberal Party's victory was also due, in large measure, to the interference of representatives of the US government and even President Bush who, in declarations to the international press referred to the 80s in Nicaragua as the "dark night of Nicaragua" and asserted that nobody would want to return to that time, making a clear call for people to not vote for the FSLN and the Convergence. The US ambassador in Nicaragua, Oliver Garza, appeared less like an ambassador and more like a member of the Liberal Party campaign team because of his constant declarations against the FSLN and in favour of the Liberal Party.

Once again the United States government did not allow us Nicaraguans to make our own decisions in freedom, without pressure or threats or campaigns of terror. The people of Nicaragua, especially rural peasants, the poor, the illiterate, those living in extreme poverty (which make up more than 70% of the Nicaraguan population), and Nicaraguan society in general prefer to be with empty stomachs and continue dying of hunger or of curable

diseases for lack of access to health care, than live with uncertainty or fear of a supposed war.

All we have left is to hope that this new Liberal government will fulfill the promises it made during the campaign to the people of Nicaragua – the people who are clamoring for a change in this difficult economic situation, the instability, and the harsh reality that face the country.

In conclusion, and returning to the theme of the events of September 11 against the twin towers and the Pentagon, I can only hope that the government of the United States and

all the governments of all the countries in the world and societies reflect that all of us are part of the same planet. That we must respect its cultures and its natural resources, and that we must acknowledge that nobody can or should continue to impose their economic policies, social norms, or ways of thinking on others. We must acknowledge our cultural differences which make us unique, unify our common points, learn from each other, and together seek out the social justice in the world that we all desire.

– *Mario Tellez Lazo, Nicaragua*

U.S. Influence on Nicaraguan Elections

■ In June, 2001, polls showed Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega leading the presidential race in Nicaragua. That month, Lino Gutierrez, U.S. under secretary of state for hemispheric affairs and a former ambassador to Nicaragua, was sent to Nicaragua where he made it clear in an address to the American chamber of commerce in Managua that the U.S. "would not look kindly on the Sandinistas' re-emergence."

■ On July 18th, Noel Vidaurre, presidential candidate for the centrist Conservative Party, dropped out of the race. He had been running third, and a split of the centre-right vote would have improved Ortega's chances of winning. Vidaurre said that he had been under constant pressure from the U.S. government to quit. "The theme is the need to beat Daniel Ortega, not to better Nicaragua and install an honest, transparent government."

■ John Negroponte, ambassador to Honduras from 1981-85, has been accused of ignoring human rights abuses and atrocities in exchange for Honduras ensuring a base for the Contras, the U.S.-backed counter-revolutionary forces that waged war on Nicaragua in the 1980s. Following a

six month delay, his nomination as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. was unanimously confirmed three days after the September 11th attacks.

■ U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua Oliver Garza threatened that a Sandinista victory could lead to reprisals by the U.S. government. He stated it could mean a return to the 1980s and a continuation of the U.S.'s oppositional policies toward the Sandinistas, and implicitly threatened a discontinuation of U.S. aid to Nicaragua. Garza also appeared at Liberal party campaign events decked out in a Liberal party hat and T-shirt.

■ On Monday, October 29th, the daily *La Prensa* carried a full-page paid ad for the Liberal Party presidential candidate, signed by Florida Governor Jeb Bush. Small blue letters read: "The Brother of the President of the United States" followed by a massive headline in red: "GEORGE W. BUSH SUPPORTS ENRIQUE BOLAÑOS". The whole page was bordered in red, white and blue. The ad goes on to claim that "Ortega is an enemy of everything the United States represents. Further, he is a friend of our enemies" and promotes Bolaños as a man who "promises a future of freedom."

Brazil and the “War on Terror”

The attacks of 11 September on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon were as shocking to Brazilians as to anyone else. Much like virtually every other state around the world, the Brazilian government immediately condemned the criminal acts of that day and pronounced its solidarity with the people of the United States. But, while the government supported U.S. efforts to find those responsible, it refused direct participation in any military actions headed by the United States. Nonetheless, Brazil has not completely been spared in the “war on terror”.

Soon after the attacks in New York, the Brazilian Intelligence Agency (Anib), in coordination with the CIA and the FBI, stepped up its surveillance of alleged terrorist activity near the borders with Argentina and Paraguay. Since then, investigators have found that a few Brazilian citizens and residents of Arab origin in that part of the country are involved in money laundering, arms smuggling, and drug trafficking, which has led some authorities to speculate, in a blatant case of ethnic profiling, that they may be involved in financing a vaguely defined international terrorist network. To add fuel to the bonfire of speculation, 12 illegal telephone network systems that made hundreds of simultaneous calls to several Middle Eastern and North and East African countries were discovered by the Brazilian Federal Police. But, not surprisingly, because of the overwhelming lack of any concrete evidence, the Anib has categorically declared that no terrorist network cells or bases exist in Brazil.

Still, again, not long after the tragedy on 11 September, the U.S. Secret Service was given permission by the Brazilian government to establish an office in Brazil, much to the dismay of many Brazilians. While the government and U.S. authorities

claim that the new Secret Service office’s purpose is the investigation of international drug trafficking and money laundering, most Brazilians agree that the office will monitor the country and region for alleged terrorist activity, as defined by the U.S. Moreover, the existence of the new Secret Service office is being challenged by the political opposition – especially by the leftist PT (Workers’ Party) – which argues that the constitution clearly prohibits any foreign military presence on national territory. The case is still before the courts.

Aside from the aforementioned measures, internally, Brazil has not been greatly affected by the events of 11 September. That is, Brazil has not seen the crackdown on civil rights occurring in the United States and Canada through new draconian “anti-terrorism” laws or the ridiculously desperate allegations by the right in El Salvador and Nicaragua that the respective leftist political oppositions, the FMLN and FSLN, are terrorists.

In opposition to the terror witnessed on 11 September and to the terror in the form of bombs, missiles, special forces, economic sanctions, and closing of borders which afflicted the Afghani population, Brazilian civil society mobilized and there were several mass demonstrations asking for peace around the country. Opinion polls found that only 22% of those surveyed supported the North American and British bombing of Afghanistan, while two thirds of Brazilians were against it.

In Mangueira, the Associação Livre de Moradores de Mangueira (ALMM) was most concerned with any potential effects that the new policies coming out of Washington would have on its partnership with World Vision, the ALMM’s main donor based in the U.S. Much to the relief of everyone on the ALMM

Coordination Committee, World Vision representatives in Brazil assured them that their partnership would in no way be affected by the events in the U.S.

On a more human level and in terms of solidarity, ALMM personnel were against the aggressive and unilateral stance taken by the U.S. and its allies against Afghanistan. Noam Chomsky has commented on how the citizens of countries which must suffer the consequences of U.S. economic and military imperialism tend to view the events of 11 September with a more rational understanding of the historical catalysts which sparked the horrific acts of that day. This certainly is the case with the majority of Brazilians and with ALMM members. They deplore what occurred in New York, but also deplore the suffering of Iraq’s civil population due to economic sanctions and bombings. They deplore the terror which the 20 million Kurds in southeastern Turkey suffer at the hands of the Turkish state, a NATO member. They deplore the unconditional military aid given by the U.S. to the most violent state in America, Colombia, under the pretext of another war, “the war on drugs.”

As the reports, oftentimes repressed by the North American media, of civilian deaths in Afghanistan caused by bombs and by hunger continued to increase, opposition to the war also increased here in Brazil. Aluísio Simão Pereira, ALMM General Coordinator, puts it best: “I just hope that those in charge of this world use some common sense to resolve this issue. Every innocent life that is taken by those North American missiles is a horrible insult to the victims of September 11. Dialogue and honest reflection is the first step to ending the terror – on all sides.”

– René M. Guerra Salazar, in Brazil

“Terrorists” in El Salvador

In El Salvador, the Right has acted quickly to initiate the roll back of the democratic gains established in the Peace Accords. On September 18, a newspaper article was published based on a speech given by President Flores in which he claims that the OIE, Salvadoran intelligence, is not enough to fight “terrorism”. Many government officials believe Flores wants to return to the old OIE structure in which the military operated the organism.

Since September 11th there has also been an incessant attack on the opposition FMLN. At a meeting of Central American presidents, Flores alleged that the FMLN had terrorist links. Another member of the governing ARENA party stated “It is necessary to legislate to punish political terrorism.”

The U.S. embassy has joined in as well. In response to the press statement given by the FMLN after the September 11th attacks, U.S. Ambassador Likins wrote a letter of protest stating that the press release was “offensive in content and tone”. The ambassador wrote that the offensive letter could only “satisfy the enemies of the United States and El Salvador.”

The FMLN statement actually condemned the attacks and all types of terrorism, and expressed solidarity with the pain of the families. The “offensive” statement: “The FMLN, once again, exhorts to the states, principally the government of the United States of America, to resolve conflict through dialogue and negotiation, respecting the sovereignty and independence of other nations as a sign of political willingness which will assure peace and the social, political, and economic stability of all people.”

– from the *Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad* (See also page 10)

SHADES OF THE 70s

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PREPARING FOR WAR?

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington were on the minds of soldiers from the United States and eight Latin American countries participating in three weeks of joint military training that ended Sept. 11 in Salta, Argentina.

The objective of the operation, dubbed “Cabañas 2001,” was to train on an imaginary “battlefield of civilians, non-governmental organizations and potential adversaries.”

The training scenario was a fight for control of a fictitious nation suffering from ethnic and religious conflict. The scenario included a multinational military force established to disarm the warring factions and control demonstrations.

A total of 1,200 soldiers from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the United States participated in the training, financed by the United States and held on a 4,000-hectare site where two “towns” were built.

The joint exercises began eight years ago in Puerto Rico. Colombian and Venezuelan soldiers were not included in this year’s exercises.

According to 1980 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, president of Argentina’s Peace and Justice Service (SERPAJ), there is the risk of “remilitarization of Latin America by the United States, given the prediction of an increase in social conflicts caused by free-trade agreements on the continent.”

Argentine opposition politicians and community organizations say the military exercises point to the beginning of a new strategy to repress social protests. In recent months,

Salta has been at the heart of protests, including numerous road-blocks, by workers and unemployed Argentines protesting the government’s economic policies.

SUING KISSINGER

The family of Gen. René Schneider, who was assassinated in 1970, filed suit Sept. 10 in US Federal Court against several members of the government of former US President Richard Nixon (1969-74).

Among those named in the suit are then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Richard Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) at the time, who are accused of planning and organizing Schneider’s murder.

Schneider, who was the head of the armed forces in Chile had publicly declared his support for socialist President Salvador Allende (1970-73). He died Oct. 25, 1970, from bullet wounds received three days earlier during an attempted kidnapping.

Schneider’s son René Schneider Arce, accused Kissinger and the CIA of having orchestrated his father’s murder and the overthrow of Allende’s government.

“There is evidence that (Kissinger and Helms) sent money to the people responsible for my father’s death,” Schneider said.

US documents from the 1960s and 1970s which have been declassified over the past two years, show that the US government was involved in the Sept. 11, 1973, military coup that toppled Allende. Retired Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who ruled Chile for 17 years (1973-90), led the coup. More than 200 criminal cases involving human rights violations are pending against Pinochet in Chile.



At the Wrong End of Power

I felt sorry when I met E. for the first time, the way she walked, with her shoulders hunched, her chin close to her chest, her gaze fixed on the floor, and the shape of her hair, as if she had placed a bowl over her head and followed the edge with scissors. When she spoke, she did so with quiet shyness and embarrassment, like a young girl, scared and hiding from visibility. But E. is in her fifties. She came to Canada from Eastern Europe with her husband over 20 years ago. He used to beat her. And then he died and now she is alone.

The nature of power is such that the more one possesses, the greater is the likelihood that it will be abused. For women like E. living with men like her husband, any desire to work or learn or socialize can be seen as threats to that power. And such challenges come at a price.

For some, the pursuit and protection of power can become a religion or faith unto itself. And when the pursuit and protection of power becomes a religion, it can twist and contort minds to such an extent that any actions undertaken in its name can be carried out with a clear conscience. For a superpower like the United States, power also allows it to define such words or concepts as terrorism, good and evil, freedom, democracy, our values, even God. And if there are people who challenge or hurt those with such power, there is always a price to pay because any kind of power also has its own definition of justice.

The price or justice demanded is based on a sliding scale which depends, on one hand, on the level of power possessed, and on the other, on the level or intensity of the challenge. If the challenge or threat to power is deemed sufficiently threatening, if it is seen to be striking at its very foundations, a price will be exacted with

little self-doubt allowed and few questions asked. To do otherwise would be sacrilegious. Introspection may take place, but only long after the threat has passed.

In countries like Guatemala and Nicaragua, the United States governments' intellectual and material involvement in the civil wars is beyond dispute. The U.S. felt threatened and responded in a way that they felt was appropriate. After much suffering and death, the fighting in Guatemala ended in 1996. In March



of 1999, President Bill Clinton travelled to Guatemala and apologized for his country's role in the war.

But only two years later, a new threat to the world's only superpower had appeared. The impact has been felt throughout the world. In Nicaragua, elections were held last month. Daniel Ortega was seeking the Presidency once more. Powerful people in the U.S. interpreted this as part of the new threat of terrorism. Jeb Bush, Governor of Texas and brother to the President, chose to intervene directly by taking out full-page advertisements proclaiming his support for the opposition Liberal candidate. Direct threats were also made to Nicaraguans should they elect Ortega. According to a piece in the Guardian, three U.S. politicians, including Jesse Helms, "put a resolu-

tion to Congress calling on the President to re-evaluate his policy towards Nicaragua if the Sandinistas were to win - effectively suggesting the further impoverishment of an impoverished country if the wrong result came through. The resolution was duly reported in the Nicaraguan press." Apparently, there is no need for subtlety when the U.S. deals with a minor irritant like Central America.

In the community where I work, we have refugees from many parts of the world - Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Kurds from Iraq, our own Native Aborigines. They all carry the scars and demons of violence suffered, of having been born into situations where there is little or no peace. But the people we meet have chosen to struggle, to work hard to better themselves. And it is never easy.

Three years ago, E. had found the courage to participate in a pre-employment/life skills program that is offered in our community. The program is designed as a first step to bringing women out of isolation, getting them to move forward. On Saturday, I saw her again. We were in a grocery store. Each time I came near her, she avoided my eyes and scurried to another aisle. What was striking about her this time was that her hair had turned completely ashen gray. Last week, I heard that she wanted to take the program again.

And so it goes. I am sorry for those who died in Central America's civil wars; I am sorry for those who died on September 11 - those in the airplanes, those working in the World Trade Centre Towers and the Pentagon; I am sorry for those who are dying in Afghanistan; and I am sorry for E. If I could put my sorrow into song, I would. It would be a song for anyone who has ever found themselves at the wrong end of power.

— Randy Kohan



Change for Children would like to thank the Bridge Street United Church Foundation for a \$5,000.00 Grant for the Safe House for Girls INPHRU project in Managua, Nicaragua.

El Bloque: Building the Future

Throughout November, Juan Pablo Ponce Rios, El Bloque's Executive Coordinator, braved cold weather and strange food to visit Alberta communities, to discuss the drought in Nicaragua, and to talk about El Bloque's work to improve the lives of the people in the northwestern area of the country. CFCA would like to thank the many people who assisted us in organizing this tour, attended the presentations, and donated generously.



CFCA is also looking to support El Bloque in their important, ongoing work. Our current project will assist El Bloque in the following three areas.

Several months ago, Canadian priest Denis Hebert arranged the donation of machinery to produce floor tiles and building blocks. These items are now available to the local communities for a very low price, and if production increases they will be sold to other areas, creating a sustainable source of income for El Bloque. This project will expand the produc-

tion capacity of the factory and set up an administration office.

The purchase of a truck will also benefit the organization in several ways: it will be used to deliver the building materials from the factory; it will improve El Bloque's efficiency in all of their programs; and it can be rented to community members for a small fee, thereby generating income for the organization.

The third aspect of this project is the construction of a mini-irrigation system on El Bloque's experimental farm. The farm is used to develop and test new agricultural methods and products, and to train farmers in crop diversification, use of organic fertilizers and pesticides, and animal management.

These initiatives will improve not only El Bloque's self-sufficiency as an organization, but the nutrition and overall well-being of the communities involved.

If you would like to support this project, please contact Ricardo at (780) 448-1505.

CFCA Joins charity.ca: Giving by Credit Card

Did you know? If you wish to make a donation to Change for Children by credit card, you can now do so on-line. Just go to www.charity.ca and hit "search". When the screen appears, search for "Change for Children Association" to view our profile. From there you can research all about CFCA, or hit "donate now" to give a donation via credit card. It's that simple.

Will Power... Express Your Will Now!

If you would like to make a lasting contribution to the struggle against poverty, and Change for Children's mission is something you feel passionately about, please consider naming CFCA as a beneficiary in your will. This would enable you to leave a legacy by supporting the ongoing work of our organization and our partners in the South. You can determine the conditions of how a gift or bequest will be used – a designated project in a certain country, or perhaps a Named Endowment fund or other fund which will provide a stable ongoing source of support. There are also significant tax benefits of staging your giving.

For more information on how to leave a gift to CFCA in your will, contact your lawyer, or in Alberta, contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the Law Society of Alberta at 1-800-661-1095. For Endowment Fund planning, contact your community planned giving foundation (in Edmonton, the Edmonton Community Foundation at (780) 426-0015 or www.ecfoundation.org). If you require information on CFCA, please call Cherie at the office (780) 448-1505.

“Anti-Terrorism” Used to Attack Workers in El Salvador

from the Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad, El Salvador, October 29, 2001 • cis@netcomsa.com • www.cis-elsalvador.org

Combating “terrorism” is also being used as a blanket excuse to carry out policies that benefit the rich and hurt the poor majority. Unions and social justice organizations have conveniently been attacked along with the FMLN.

At a recent conference, the National Association of Private Businesses lamented that they had not accomplished their goal of privatizing the airport. With the events of September 11, the Armed Forces reinforced security in the Airport. Neither workers nor the union objected to this measure. But on September 23, the armed forces and an elite group of the police force disarmed the airport security workers at gunpoint. Using military force, they expelled the workers from the terminal. The next day, the armed forces and police

blocked the cargo and maintenance workers, all of which belonged to the union, from the site. On September 25, the military announced that the maintenance workers could return, but 154 cargo and security workers were fired, in violation of a number of national and international codes.

The workers put forward a complaint against CEPA, the Executive Autonomous Port Commission, to the Ministry of Labor. The government, however, ruled in favor of CEPA in a process marked by irregular practices. A complaint has also been put before the International Labor Organization.

In the meantime, the fired union workers are being pressured to accept a small lump sum of badly needed money, but that means they’ll never get their jobs back. Union members still working are being asked to

decide between their job and their union; CEPA has been providing transportation for the workers to go to the Ministry of Labor to resign from the union. Furthermore, union members have been followed by undercover police and have received threatening phone calls.

PLEASE WRITE and demand that all the workers be reincorporated into their jobs. Write to:

- Comisión Ejecutiva Portuaria Autónoma CEPA
Presidente Ing. Ruy César Miranda G.
Fax: (503) 260-3321
- Presidencia de la República de El Salvador
Lic. Francisco G. Flores Pérez
Fax: (503) 271-0950

IMF tells starving Nicaraguans to tighten their belts

from the Social Justice Committee of Montreal, October 12, 2001 • fax: (514) 933 9517 • e-mail: sjc@web.ca • www.s-j-c.net

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has stopped the debt relief program for Nicaragua in the midst of crisis. There has been widespread, worsening hunger in Nicaragua since the beginning of the year, with flooding, drought, and collapsing coffee prices hitting the country with a series of devastating blows. (See Building Bridges, September 2001 issue.)

Despite the situation of the country, the IMF continues to demand that the Nicaraguan government slash spending, pull money out of circulation, and privatize public utilities. IMF documents released October 2 show that IMF staff have decided that Nicaragua has failed to comply with these demands, and the institution has suspended Nicaragua's debt relief program indefinitely.

"Directors emphasized the importance of establishing a track

record in policy implementation as a necessary element for continued support for HIPC and PRGF participation... They stressed that the authorities should stand ready to further restrain government expenditure."

The IMF is refusing to negotiate new support until conditions are met. Without an IMF agreement, development assistance from other sources is endangered. The Canadian office at the IMF confirmed that the HIPC debt relief program has indeed been stopped indefinitely. This means that debt cancellation by creditor countries is also now on hold, until the IMF allows it to proceed. (Note: Canada is not owed money by Nicaragua.)

HIPC is the program of debt reduction for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries. PRGF is the IMF's Poverty Reduction Strategy Program.

PLEASE WRITE and ask that Canada argue vigorously at the IMF to restore the debt reduction program for Nicaragua, and de-link IMF structural adjustment conditions from the HIPC program. Write to:

- Ian Bennett
IMF Executive Director
representing Canada
fax: (202) 623-4712
email: ibennett@imf.org
- Howard Brown
International Trade and Finance
Branch, Dept. of Finance
Fax: (613) 943-0279
email: Brown.Howard@fin.gc.ca
- Honourable Paul Martin
Minister of Finance
fax: (613) 947-4442
email: pmartin@fin.gc.ca
- Your Member of Parliament



The calendars are available for individual purchase or **may be used as a fundraising tool for your own organization. Call (780) 448-1505 for more info.**

Our thanks to CIDA's Development Information Program for their support in producing the calendars.

Show your Solidarity with CFCA!

For our 25th Anniversary, we introduced the following CFCA merchandise. Please see the order form below for sizing and prices.

- Waterbottle (blue plastic with white logo)
- Bandana (blue with white logo)
- Plastic travel mug with lid (green with silver logo)
- T-shirts - 100% heavy cotton short sleeved t-shirts, orange t-shirt with royal blue logo or stone t-shirt with navy logo on breast
- Golf shirts - 100% preshrunk cotton, herringbone textured pique golf shirts, navy shirt with natural logo or natural shirt with navy logo embroidered on sleeve cuff
- Fleece Liner Vest, navy with silver logo embroidered on breast

PEACE CALENDARS

This 16-month calendar (September 2001 - December 2002) features lively and colourful art from Change for Children's *Youth of the Americas Peace Mural*. The peace mural is a collection of paintings created by youth from Alberta, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, based on the UN's *Culture of Peace* initiative and UNESCO's *Manifesto 2000*. The calendar notes international observances in the areas of peace, human rights, environmental and other issues, along with historic events. Each month also showcases one of Change for Children's project partners in Latin America, with photos and descriptions of their work and communities.

CULTURE OF PEACE POSTERS

A series of six full-colour, 16" x 22" posters featuring panels from the mural and the *Manifesto 2000* pledges. (See them at www.changeforchildren.org)



Merchandise Order Form

Please make cheque or money order payable to Change for Children Association. Please allow 8 weeks for delivery.

Thank you for your support!

Waterbottle(s)	.....	Quantity	_____	.....	\$4.00 ea.	= _____									
Bandana(s)	.....	Quantity	_____	.....	\$4.00 ea.	= _____									
Travel mug(s)	.....	Quantity	_____	.....	\$7.00 ea.	= _____									
Painting Peace Posters (set of 6)		Quantity	_____	.....	\$15.00 ea.	= _____									
Peace Calendars (not for resale)		Quantity	_____	.....	\$15.00 ea.	= _____									
Orange T-shirt	Size/Quantity	S	_____	M	_____	L	_____	XL	_____	2XL	_____	3XL	_____	\$15.00 ea.	= _____
Stone T-shirt	Size/Quantity	S	_____	M	_____	L	_____	XL	_____	2XL	_____	3XL	_____	\$15.00 ea.	= _____
Navy golf shirt	Size/Qty. Ladies'	S	_____	M	_____	L	_____	XL	_____					\$45.00 ea.	= _____
		Size/Qty. Men's	S	_____	M	_____	L	_____	XL	_____	2XL	_____	3XL	_____	\$45.00 ea.
Natural golf shirt	Size/Qty. Ladies'	S	_____	M	_____	L	_____	XL	_____					\$45.00 ea.	= _____
		Size/Qty. Men's	S	_____	M	_____	L	_____	XL	_____	2XL	_____	3XL	_____	\$45.00 ea.
Fleece Liner Vest	Size/Quantity	S	_____	M	_____	L	_____	XL	_____					\$45.00 ea.	= _____
Painting Peace T-shirt	Size/Qty.	S	_____	M	_____	L	_____	XL	_____					\$15.00 ea.	= _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I will pick up		OR		<input type="checkbox"/> Add shipping fee: \$4.00 orders less than \$20.00 / \$6.00 orders over \$20.00										= _____	

Name: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Street Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Painting Peace Project Wins Award



On November 9th, Project Ploughshares recognized the work of Dr. Swee-Hin Toh and Change for Children's Painting Peace Project with the Salvos Prelorentzos Peace Award. The ceremony was held at Edmonton City Hall, with a keynote speech by Dr. David Goa, Curator at the Provincial Museum. Participants Joel Rhein and Erin Park spoke on how this project impacted them personally, and what it meant to the people of all three countries involved. Mr. Juan Pablo Ponce Rios of Nicaragua accepted the award on behalf of the youth of his country. *Above: A mural in Nicaragua inspired by the project: "We must become the change we want to see."*

CFCA OPEN HOUSE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

In appreciation of your support and solidarity over the year, we invite you to Change for Children's

**Annual Open House and Donor/Volunteer Appreciation
Friday, December 14th, 4:00pm to 10:00 pm
at Change for Children, 10545-92St. (St. Michael's School)**

Please join with our staff and Board of Directors as we express our thanks to our supporters and celebrate the season with some holiday cheer. Call the CFCA office at 448-1505 for more information. All are welcome!

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 2002 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)
- \$ _____ Your projects in the country of _____
(current projects are in Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Brazil)
- \$ _____ Your Development Education Program here in Canada
- \$ _____ Helping to start an Endowment Fund
- \$ _____ **Total Amount Enclosed**

Please make cheques payable to Change for Children Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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 and Design: Chris Peters*



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 communities, according to their current needs.

We appreciate receiving your comments, suggestions or criticisms about this publication or its content. Please mail, fax, or e-mail us at:

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

For more information, please call us at 780-448-1505 or visit our website:
www.changeforchildren.org

Registered Charitable Organization No. 11884 9496 RR0001

PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN OPTION

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 \$ _____ per month on the _____th day of each month.

Signature(s) of Account Holder

Date Signed