



AMERICA • BIBLICAL INSTITUTE OF  
**BICA** • CENTRAL  
*Now!*

# **BICA** **TRANSFORMS** *THE LIVES OF THE STUDENTS*



**124**  
*BAPTISMS*  
*THIS MONTH!*

**18** *CAMPAIGNS*  
*IN 1 WEEK*  
**IN EL SALVADOR**

**TESTIMONY**  
*OF A PRIEST... TURNED GRADUATE!*

# A JESUIT PRIEST AND THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

A POWERFUL STORY OF REDEMPTION AND RADICAL CHANGE



## IN 2011,

Mario Castillo, a Jesuit priest, never imagined that his move to live just 30 meters from the campus of BICA Guatemala would change his life for eternity. Mario, of Venezuela, lived in Central America for more than 15 years as an ordained Jesuit priest and practicing Catholic missions in Guatemala and El Salvador. In 2011 Mario received a special invitation to attend Rafael Landívar University in Guatemala to complete his Doctorate in Theology.

The Jesuits have an almost military type structure (absolute obedience), a clear mission (to the greater glory of God), and a total unconcern for worldly successes (vain desires). With the Latin motto "Ad maiorem Dei gloriam" which means "Greater glory of God", the Jesuit order aims to spread the Catholic faith through missions, apostolate, teaching and science.

It was in August of 2011, Mario knocked on the front door of BICA Guatemala requesting permission to investigate some additional subjects for his Doctoral Thesis in our small library. The Assistant Director Jose Salmeron gladly welcomed him in and there a friendship began between the two.

Mario's visits to our BICA campus became more frequent... and he began to ask questions and become interested in Bible studies with Salmeron.

Needless to say... it was a surprising and unexpected sight for all those attending our 2011 graduation to see a Catholic priest attending our graduation! He was dressed neatly in his official clerical clothing. I looked and looked for the photos I have of this moment but I believe they are on my computer in Guatemala. I will have to share the photos with you soon! After the graduation, Mario commented that he was shocked by the organization of our worship and the acapella singing during the graduation. He was so intrigued.... the following Sunday, he attended the church of Christ of Pinares del Norte where our Director Roberto Alvarez of Guatemala preaches; with whom, Mario had become friends with as well.

It was Roberto who asked Mario if he was absolutely sure the Jesuit faith was based entirely on the Bible. He offered to kindly study the theme of baptism and the authority of the Catholic Pope. A week later, Salmeron, Roberto and Mario studied these subjects in-depth with Bibles in hand. Mario's heart was humbled and opened to the word of God. He was devoted to the point of accepting God's word and he asked to be baptized for the forgiveness of his sins on December 19, 2011. Mario chose to abandon his studies at the Jesuit University and requested to join BICA Guatemala to train with us! Two years later, Mario graduated with high honors from BICA Guatemala... and today he is among more than 300 graduates of BICA Guatemala! As of now, he is serving and leading in the church of Christ in El Salvador. We can only say these words...



...all glory to **GOD**



That would be a great benefit to my church!  
I leave BICA and return to my congregation to help so that  
they can see a servant in me.

<https://goo.gl/OzJCb4>

# BICA TRANSFORMS THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

Our students enter to our Biblical Institute from various walks of life but they all have one thing in common. They are ready and willing for the Lord to work in their life and become a powerful disciple. In the two years at BICA, each student trains intensively and puts the gospel into practice every day. Each student in his/her two years of training has the experience of presenting more than 600 Bible studies. They develop an extraordinary ability and passion to save souls for the Lord... and to commit to serving Him for a lifetime!

**This month** our students from BICA Guatemala and BICA Honduras joined together to travel to the neighboring country of El Salvador. El Salvador is the smallest but most densely populated country in Central America. El Salvador's churches of Christ are always requesting campaigns each year because they have seen the effectiveness of the evangelical vision of BICA. But to conduct a campaign at each of the churches in El Salvador that request... would be an impossible feat. Therefore, we implemented a system of simultaneous campaigns this April... BICA took over all of El Salvador!

# 18 CAMPAIGNS IN 1 WEEK IN EL SALVADOR





## In El Salvador...

BICA Honduras carried out seven campaigns from the northern region to the center and BICA Guatemala carried out eleven campaigns from the southern region to the center. We divided our students into 18 small groups and reached a total of 18 churches in El Salvador. After a full week of hard work, BICA resulted in 89 baptisms, with an average of five baptisms per group! When the campaign week ended on Sunday, we joined together and united in worship with all the surrounding churches! Many brothers gathered to worship in the name of God. BICA is not only helping the churches in Guatemala and Honduras we are also helping and evangelizing ...



TOTAL NUMBER OF

**BAPTISMS** THIS MONTH

BICA GUATEMALA AND BICA HONDURAS

**124**

WITH MORE THAN

**500 BIBLE STUDIES**

... and all of this would  
**NOT HAPPEN**

**WITHOUT**

**YOU**



**WE ARE SO VERY  
THANKFUL**

for your support and your prayers!  
It is working! Right now, we are excited to be redesigning our website. This website is going to be really amazing! There you can stay connected, view student profiles, donate online with a Debit/Credit Card, and setup recurring donations each month!

...but until we debut the new website, you can send donations to the official BICA address:



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