

Poverty in Central America breeds Marxist Liberation Theology

From a Unification Church Missionary in Central America

March 1976

Vicki Tatz, Editor



(unleavened bread made with corn meal).

When I was on the south coast, I saw many homes of poor families, constructed with odds and ends of wood, bamboo, or grass. Many of these homes seem to be 'built without a sense of beauty or sense of hope, just thrown together any which way. In the poor areas, the dogs have hardly any flesh on them -- the ribs are really sticking out. That's one way you can tell if an area is poor or not.

I visited one home, a grass hut. At first, I thought that nobody lived there, but then I noticed a woman in the doorway. She invited me in to sit on the hammock in the shade. The hut had a sand floor. She and her four children were all barefoot. She was busy at work grinding the dough for tortillas -- grinding it between two stones. She explained that her husband had been a fisherman, but he got sick (a stroke, I think) and had to sell his boat. Now they are eating almost nothing but tortillas

One group of people who is working to "help" the poor people is the Catholic Church. But many priests are Communists. I was shocked to hear about the priest in a nearby town. My friend went to talk with the priest in her hometown because a friend of hers was complaining that she comes to see me and is learning strange ideas.

Her priest said he saw nothing wrong with her coming here, and it is always good to learn new things. But then he also asked if she was a university student. She said "Yes," and his reaction was, "Oh, good, I hope you will learn some of the revolutionary ideas there. It's always good to keep up with the latest ideas."

He also said that the Bible is the "least Christian book" he knows and that people who believe in the Fall of Man are stupid, because "man never fell." He is known to study Marxism and is very active in organizing the "campesinos" (peasant farmers).

He wants these peasants to seize land belonging to large property holders. There have been many instances of lands being seized in various sections of some countries here.