

REGIONAL CONSULTATION INTEGRAL MISSION AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

TO RETHINK THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

- Biblical and Theological support
- Sharing of Best Practices from Latin America and the Caribbean
- Strategies for Public Policy

Date: March 7th-9th, 2019

Place: Lima, Perú

For information and registration contact:
eventos@pazyesperanza.org

Las lomas de amancaes: emblema de la lucha ambiental

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I. Overview

The environmental crisis has become a critical issue in the region in light of its implications for the development of our communities, especially the poorest and most excluded.

The poorest communities in our countries are witnessing how the climate is changing, and how phenomena caused by global warming are affecting the normal, healthy development of families. In rural areas there are more severe droughts and farmers are struggling to cultivate crops, and in poor urban neighbourhoods large numbers of families have been affected by flooding. This reality challenges us to think beyond whether climate change is really happening or not; instead the question we need to ask is how we can act to stop the decline of our common home and get involved in politics and in the struggle for climate justice on daily basis.

Faith-based organisations and communities – who are part of civil society- have a key role to play in this struggle for climate justice, not only when it comes to prayer or awareness-raising within churches and communities, but also in relation to advocacy at local and national levels.

In this regard, we believe that, from a Christian perspective, there is an ethical angle to the climate change debate. The decision to reduce the effects of global warming on our communities is rooted in the belief that human life should be cared for and protected. This pastoral action must be accompanied by the prophetic dimension of the church's mission, which involves speaking out to create citizen awareness, and demanding greater accountability from political decision-makers in relation to the environmental crisis.

In light of this, and within the framework of the 'Renew Our World' campaign, the Latin America and Caribbean evangelical community would like to invite you to participate in a workshop of reflection and challenge to action. The consultation will be a time to review actions in support of environmental justice, as well as to rethink the intervention strategy of evangelical organizations and church communities.

II. **Objectives:**

- a. To facilitate a meeting between evangelical organisations and church communities in order to reflect on and exchange learning about experiences and proposed actions by the churches in relation to climate change and climate justice.
- b. To create a space to reflect on the biblical and theological framework from which actions can be developed that involve churches and evangelical organisations in working for climate justice.
- c. To promote discussion and exchange in relation to how collaboration between evangelical organisations and networks in the region can foster more active participation by civil society and more effective advocacy.

III. **Topics for discussion:**

- a. The environmental problem at a global level: its implications for Latin America.
- b. Biblical, theological and missiological foundations for pastoral action for climate justice.
- c. Learning about good practices by the faith community in the struggle against climate change.
- d. Developing strategies for advocacy by the church in the face of climate change.

IV. **Methodology**

The consultation will focus on three key areas:

- **Analysis of the problem in Latin America and the Caribbean:**

We will take time to examine and analyse the current reality and the implications of the environmental crisis at both a global level and in Latin America.

- **Biblical and theological reflection:**

We will develop a biblical and theological approach by which to examine missiological and prophetic challenges faced by faith communities in the context of the climate crisis.

- **Exchange of good practices:**

We will exchange good practices developed by evangelical organisations and church communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, and use them to reflect on how to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, and advocacy efforts to address climate change and to promote solidarity initiatives with affected people and communities.

- **Advocacy strategies:**

We will share tools for evangelical organisations and church communities to develop awareness-raising and advocacy strategies for climate justice.

Within the framework of these three areas, the consultation will include the following points:

- a. Discussion about the environmental problem and initiatives developed
 - a) Review of the current context of climate change
 - b) The United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COPs) and the participation and impact of Latin American actors
 - c) Civil society actions and initiatives
 - d) Church actions and initiatives: learning from good practice
- b. The biblical and theological framework for mission in contexts of environmental crisis.
 - a) Biblical ideas about caring for our common home
 - b) The role of faith communities in climate justice
- c. Strategies for action
 - a) How to increase awareness with the church of its need to become involved in climate justice
 - b) How to include environmental issues in biblical training programmes

- c) How to develop advocacy strategies to address the environmental crisis
- d) How to use the media to raise awareness and advocate

V. Profile of potential participants:

- Individuals from or leaders of evangelical denominations, congregations, and organisations from Latin America and the Caribbean that are working on the issue of the environment:
 1. Using a biblical and theological approach/developing related materials
 2. Through awareness-raising with and mobilising of the church
 3. Through concrete advocacy actions

VI. MAXIMUM 40 participants

15 from Peru and 25 from the rest of the continent, including 10 who are involved in biblical and theological work, 15 in church mobilisation and 15 in advocacy.

VII. COSTS

- \$ 160.00 (3 nights accommodation – in a shared twin room – and three days full board). Arriving from Wednesday afternoon 6 March and leaving before midday Sunday 10 March. The event will end Saturday 9 March at 6pm. Return flights can be booked from 10pm on Saturday 9 March.
- \$80.00 for national participants who do not require accommodation (covers food for three days and materials).

Transport costs from and to the airport are not included above. If participants would like to book transport from and to the airport, they can find out about costs by e-mailing: eventos@pazyesperanza.org

VIII. REGISTRATION

Fill out the online registration form (request from: eventos@pazyesperanza.org)

IX. GRANTS

Renew our World has a small grants fund which can part-fund costs of participants with a track record of pastoral practice in creation care advocacy or who can present a case study along these lines. The amount granted is intended to part cover flight costs or to cover the costs of accommodation and board.

X. Location of the event:

“Santiago Apóstol” House, Av. Pedro de Osma 428 – Barranco
Lima, Peru