

Boats

A lifestyle for a church of the Kingdom.

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

This seminar is a response to the worries and questions of dozens of congregations that have visited us and consulted us about the lifestyle we have adopted in *Cristo Para Todos* over the last two and a half years.

The lifestyle is a response to a vision that God gave us some years ago regarding the necessity to make the gospel known in public and which encouraged us to take responsibility for our city.

It became clear to us that God didn't want a confined church, but one that was present throughout the city. That in every person we would see an opportunity to expand the Kingdom. At the same time we felt that God wanted to bless each and every person and that He is primarily interested in the expansion of the Kingdom. The growth of the church wouldn't be the end, but a consequence of this way of life.

We don't seek to teach what we know rather to share, because there have been many times we have had to confess our ignorance with regard to the plans of the Holy Spirit.

Many congregations in the world have been an encouragement to us. Some of them blessing us directly, others when we read of their experiences. They have inspired us, not to copy a program or a method, but to discover the purpose of God. This is the reason why we want to share with everybody what has inspired and encouraged us to establish this lifestyle.

We believe that the vision is God's vision. We also believe that this way is right, but we have to be permanently open to correction in how we carry it out. This is why your participation in this seminar is of great value to us.

However, we don't only want to share the vision that we have received. We have a huge desire to spend time in the presence of our God and together receive all the new things He has for us.

Boats

A lifestyle for the churches of the Kingdom

We believe that the King of the heavens wants all His subjects to take His gospel everywhere, presenting Jesus to everybody in this generation. That He wants every believer to grow, be ministered to in a comfortable environment and be transformed into a true and effective fisherman.

Our Lord carried out his ministry leading a group of twelve *fishermen*, appointing them to continue discipling the nations. This is essentially how the concept of the *boats* was developed.

What are boats?

A boat is a group of up to twelve fishermen, baptised believers, that develop mutual relationships and carry out a range of activities, with the primary objective being to extend the Kingdom of God. All the boats are made up of fishermen of the same sex and where possible of similar ages. They are lead or pastored by a *pilot*, who is chosen from a group of candidates that have completed the appropriate course.

Why and for what reason do they exist?

We believe that the boats are a scriptural and effective way for God to bring in the huge catch of men and women that he has planned for this generation.

The boats are a place for spiritual development, effective interaction, learning and mutual and spiritual support from other believers. As they are *fishing boats*, all their activities relate directly to the carrying out of the great commission. It's a constantly proven fact that when the fishermen testify of their faith their spiritual health is boosted.

How do they work?

Each boat meets weekly to establish and maintain a healthy relationship between the fishermen, to "clean and repair the nets", to pray and intercede and plan their activities. The boats also go out weekly to fish, at convenient and times.

The functions and responsibilities of the fishermen are:

- Participate in the weekly boat meetings and fishing trips.
- Attend at least one of the general Sunday meetings.
- Give tithes and offerings regularly.
- Participate in the ministries of the church, special activities and missionary trips.

The functions and responsibilities of the pilots are:

- Maintain close and personal contact with each one of his/her fishermen, encourage them and train them, the objective being that they develop into future pilots.
- Lead the weekly boat meetings and fishing trips.
- Keep the *log book* up to date with information of activities and fishing trips.
- Take part in the monthly pilot's meetings.
- In general teach by example – it's the best way.

How do the different boats interact?

Each boat is part of a co-ordinated strategy that we call the *General fishing plan*. Even though each boat has a specific day for fishing, at times they join together for general fishing, intercession for the city etc.

How do they multiply?

There are 4 dynamic factors in the multiplication of the boats:

1. Fishing trips out at sea in obedience to the command of Jesus. That's to say, we carry out our evangelistic activities in the streets and every other accessible place in the city. This is a form of fishing reflected in what Jesus says in Luke 10. Experience shows that when fishing is done in this way, the catch is abundant. For the first encounter we generally use a survey and the majority of the people that we survey are converted.
2. Contact for the second time with a new convert, during which the reality of their experience with God, protection received from God and any miracles that occurred, are confirmed. This encounter is essentially to confirm that the two basic characteristics of a born again christian (the presence of God and the desire to share their faith) are permanently present in the new believer.
3. The church as an institution is made visible in the city in such a way that the dedication of the christians to the wellbeing of the people of the city is seen. That is to say, that the presence of the church is seen clearly, as well as the message that Jesus is interested in every part of our lives.
4. The fishermen keep regular contact with those that the Holy Spirit has put a desire in, to be part of a group of christians that will help and encourage them in their growth and relationship with God and with their personal testimony.

The church offers itself as a facilitator to the new convert to carry out that which the Holy Spirit has put in their heart. They are only invited if it is what the Holy Spirit is doing in their life.

What does it mean to wash the nets?

The quality of life of every believer determines to a large extent how effective the fishing is. The pilot ministers to every single one of the fishermen according to their needs, orientating prayer and bible study towards the development of christian virtues and to ensure adequate cleaning of the net. A dirty net gives a poor image of the church and will cause problems among the new converts and in the world.

What does mending the nets mean?

A good net without holes is essential in the process of bringing in the new converts. A large catch exerts pressure on the net and it can break where it is weak. For this reason the pilot has to guide his/her fishermen in a constant, growing, strong relationship.

What is the School of Fishermen?

Every believer that wants to participate in boat life, has to complete a training course that lasts thirteen weeks. This process helps the new converts develop the basics for their new life: a relationship with God and the sharing their faith with everybody. This time of discipleship is useful to everybody. It's a time to learn new concepts, lay the foundations of the faith and impart the vision. The contents of the course consist of the teachings of Jesus, from when he started to call the disciples, up to the sending of the seventy (Luke 5-10).

What is the School of Pilots?

It is designed to offer teaching, training and the necessary ministry to change fishermen, that have been recommended to the course by their pilot, into leaders.

In this time of growth in the church we have to consider every fisherman as a future pilot, because the constant addition of new fishermen means that new boats need to be created.

What is the log book?

For effective ministry it is necessary to keep a register, that we call the log book. It is where all the personal details of each fisherman are kept and details of their participation in the boat meetings, the fishing trips and at least one service a week in the church. Absences help detect any problems that a fisherman may have and enable the pilot to minister as required.

What is the relationship between boats and the ministries in the church?

The boats do not replace ministries but support and complement them. The boat is the ideal environment for the training of individuals to serve in the different ministries and for ministering to and strengthening those who already serve. In effect, the boats generate a higher number of servants that identify with the vision of the Kingdom and are gifted for the different ministries.

Leaders of the different ministries also function as regular fisherman in a boat. Not only does this give them continuous fishing practise, which is essential for every christian, but also a place of support and care for their spiritual and emotional wellbeing in the midst of the difficulties and pressures that inevitably occur when serving.

It is important to reiterate that the boats do not constitute a 'ministry' in the church and neither do they compete with them. We believe that life in the boats is a natural expression of the 'lifestyle' that God hopes to see in the subjects of the Kingdom.

What do the boats mean for the church?

The boats are not an activity program. They are the life of the church. For this reason we don't say that the church has boats but the church is in a boat. It is the lifestyle of the church. The boat is the natural environment in which a fisherman can be ministered to and discern his/her gifts and call. The fishermen can also be part of one of the ministries of the church, or if they feel it is necessary, start a new ministry.

How are they supervised and encouraged?

The pilots are grouped under the supervision of a leader that meets with them, ministers to them, helps them to resolve difficulties etc. Also, in a monthly meeting with all the pilots, the pastors of the church communicate the vision, inspiration, correction of errors, ministry and direction. Obviously, this type of structure grows downwards as the pilots and boats multiply. In this way every pilot is also a fisherman in another boat.

What is the Boat party?

Approximately every three months, there is a special activity that we call the Boat party. This activity is for encouraging the fishermen in their task, sharing signs and miracles, testifying and celebrating in the city, etc. It is also an ideal occasion for launching new challenges.

The Boat

Origin, implementation, process and development

It's origin:

1. Transition v evolution.
2. First challenges.
3. Succession of changes.
4. Looking for a way of life for the church.
5. Looking for the will of God.
6. The discovery!

Implementation:

1. Considering the historical model.
2. Respecting the feelings of the congregation.
3. Not diluting the project.
4. Looking for full understanding.
5. Encouraging everybody to try it.

Process:

1. Stages of development.
2. Times of maturing.
3. Stage 1 – Going out fishing.
4. Stage 2 – Seeing what is in the net.
5. Stage 3 – Institutional affirmation, change of image.
6. Stage 4 – Casting out the net.
7. Risks and precautions.
8. Costs and convictions.

Development:

1. The nature of the boat.
2. Preparation of the candidates (School of Fishermen).
3. Function of the pilot.
4. Preparation of the pilot
5. The work of the boat a) Going out fishing
b) Washing and mending the nets
6. The fishing environment.
7. Multiplication of the boats.

The Boat

A Way of Life

1. A reality that we have to confront: we have a problem.

- Demographic growth against extension of the Kingdom.
- Wars and rumours of wars.
- The backward movement of society.
- The world under the evil one.

2. Our fears.

- The world inside the church.
- Loss of believers.
- Fear of ridicule.
- Loss of control.

3. The first century church and a bit more.

- The direction of the Holy Spirit.
- Without a building.
- Cities changed by the gospel.
- Paul without a place to preach.

4. A church in a boat.

- The necessity to lead the church into new things.
- Program versus lifestyle.
- The costs for the 'old' church.
- An ideal way of life for small congregations.

5. An historical opportunity

- The black getting blacker every time.
- The devil in the small things.
- Our time.

School of Fishermen

A way of life for a church of the Kingdom

List of classes and their aims

The aim of these classes is to provide the basics that will enable all the brothers to form part of a boat and participate effectively in the extension of the kingdom of God.

Each lesson we look at what Jesus did and listen to his teaching as it is in the gospel. We do this with a conscientious effort to leave all our preconceptions and traditions on one side and only follow Him.

1. The call of the Lord to the Kingdom

The call is personal and for all believers. We need to be totally involved with Jesus so that we can be completely transformed into effective fishermen.

2. The plans of the Kingdom

There are various important activities that good fishermen do. Washing and mending their nets, looking after the wellbeing of the other fishermen, etc, but all have to be obedient and contribute to the primary objective – fishing.

3. Life of the Kingdom

A good fisherman has to enjoy giving thanks to Jesus, who gives us happiness, forgiveness, rest, and victory in all areas of life when we submit to his sovereignty. A legalistic, anxious or guilty act, will not be effective as salt and light to the world and fishing will not be successful.

4. The nature of the Kingdom

Like every kingdom, it is necessary to understand several defined elements (king, subjects, government, authority, objectives, priorities, territory, etc) that together determine the relevance, prestige, perspectives and the success of the Kingdom.

5. The fight and the victory of the Kingdom

To be able to operate successfully on the battlefield it is essential to understand the invisible realities and spiritual strengths and the way they work. In particular, we have to understand the victory and the authority of Jesus and how he succeeds using his obedient subjects.

6. The power of prayer and the Kingdom

Prayer is the way we carry out our relationship with God and receive power and grace. By the power of God all temptations and adverse circumstances that confront the fisherman, are transformed into blessing. Intercessory prayer is an essential weapon for the church to conquer the world and maintain it's health.

7. Communication of the Kingdom

It is living, effective and is the power of God for every aspect of life and the battle. When God communicates it is essential to have an attentive, receptive, obedient and persevering attitude.

8. Unity of the Kingdom

The church as a body, flock, building, bride etc illustrates the absolute importance for unity and integration of every member, under the control and

direction of Jesus. Everybody has to be of the same heart and mind for the health of the body and for the success of the testimony and the battle.

9. Model and inspiration for the extension of the Kingdom

Life for one of Jesus' disciples on the one hand consisted of spending time with him, watching, growing and being transformed and on the other hand going out and sharing His presence with others. Jesus gave us His authority so that the mission could be completed and we are instruments of the Holy Spirit to do this.

10. The initiation into the Kingdom

Meaning and importance of the different types of baptism, that of John and Jesus, initiation etc.

11. The presence of the Holy Spirit in the Kingdom

The role of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus. How he introduces the Holy Spirit to His disciples and how he will work in their lives and in their mission to the world.

12. The operation of the Holy Spirit in the Kingdom

The work of the Holy Spirit in the spirit, soul and body of the believer. His work among the believers and intercession for the world

13. Ready to extend the Kingdom

School for Aspiring Pilots

The School for Aspiring Pilots is there to capacitate and provide ministry for fisherman that has received and understood the call of God, so that they can become leaders of boats themselves.

AIM

That the fisherman understands the extent of the call to be a leader of a boat and receives training in accordance with this call.

OBJECTIVES

- That the fisherman develops a serving attitude for the Lord, the city and his/her brothers.
- That the fisherman grows in his/her relationship with God.
- That the fisherman totally captures the vision.
- That the fisherman will be an example of loyalty to God.
- That the fisherman receives the necessary material to lead a boat in the will of God.
- That the fisherman develops a humble heart.

PARTICIPANTS

Fishermen who have a clear call to serve and that have been sent by their own pilot and approved by the pastoral body can participate in the School of Aspiring Pilots.

DURATION

The course lasts thirteen weeks and at the end of the course the fisherman is ready to start working with a boat. We would like to point out that we only consider somebody to be a pilot once they have a boat in their care. Completing the course does not make somebody a pilot, it only gives them the ability to be one.

CONTENTS

The contents are extremely dynamic and are divided into two blocks of teaching.

The classes in the first block try to guide the aspiring pilot to form a servant heart putting the emphasis on spiritual acts, that allow us to obtain this heart. Themes such as rebelliousness, pride, loyalty and disposition are looked at here.

The second block equips the aspiring pilot with knowledge about spiritual warfare, inner healing and the tools of leadership.

DEVELOPMENT

What follows is a resume of the objectives of each class.

Class 1

Theme: **Understanding the call**

Biblical basis: Luke 5:1-9; Luke 14

- 1- God called us, not the church or the pastors. Our loyalty has to be to the one who entrusted this task to us.
- 2- What it means to be a fisher of men. The example of Peter and his companions, leaving everything to follow Jesus.....
- 3- What it means to be a disciple – *one who does the things they see the Lord doing*. Us as imitators of Jesus.

The teaching and ministry have to be really clear so that when the aspiring pilot comes back to the second class it is because they have understood exactly who called him and what is expected of him.

Class 2

Theme: **The value of obedience**

Biblical basis: Luke 7:36-50; 1 Kings 21; 1 Samuel 15:22

- 1- The value of being obedient. Obeying God and his servants. What it means to obey our pastors in everything.
- 2- Sow obedience to reap obedience. The example of the centurion in Matthew 8.
- 3- How the Jezebel spirit and the Absalom spirit work.
- 4- Example isn't the best way of teaching, it's the only way.

Formal act, by each aspiring pilot of renouncing rebelliousness, judgement and gossip. Minister to each person so that they can be free from these spirits.

Class 3

Theme: **The value of agreement**

Biblical basis: Genesis 11

- 1- Keys for the success of a boat in it's mission. The principles of unity, agreement and work.
- 2- Revision of the vision. Our meeting point is Jesus. Our point of agreement is the vision that He gave us.
- 3- All are sheep, all are witnesses, all are pastors.
- 4- What does 'Cristo para Todos' (Christ for All) mean.

Pray against all disunity. Proclaim the vision and agree on the vision. Renewal of our decision to work in that which he has commanded.

Class 4

Theme: **Pride**

Biblical basis: Proverbs 16:18; Thessalonians 2:4; Philippians 2

- 1- A proud person is a weak person.
- 2- Pride as the antithesis of the work of Jesus.
- 3- Pride as an illness.
- 4- The teaching of James. He who humbles himself, God will exalt.

Renounce pride. Actions of humbling in the presence of God, for example asking for and giving forgiveness.

Class 5

Theme: **The leader as a servant**

Biblical basis: James 4:1-10

- 1- Principals of the servant leader.
- 2- Humility, loyalty, negation, faith, example, responsibility and multiplication.
- 3- Read the book 'The armourbearer of God'.
- 4- How to become the pilot that the city needs and God desires.

Commit to acts of service towards our own pilot. Time of ministry for God to give us a servant heart.

Class 6

Theme: **Prayer and intercession 1**

Biblical basis: Ezekiel 22:30; Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 7:7; Luke 16:24

- 1- Definition of prayer as conversation. We speak, God speaks.
Time of prayer waiting for God to speak.
- 2- Going back to basics. Ask and it will be given.
- 3- The value of prayer in the life of a leader.
- 4- Definition of intercession.

Class 7

Theme: **Prayer and intercession 2**

Biblical basis: Genesis 18:16-33; Judges 6:11-21; John 17; Ephesians 3:14-21

- 1- The examples of Abraham, Gideon, Jesus and Paul as intercessors.
- 2- The relationship between intercession and spiritual warfare.
- 3- How to recognise an intercessor.
- 4- Prophetic ministry.
- 5- The city and the world as our principal motive for intercession.

A time of intercession for the city would be the ideal application of this.

Class 8

Theme: **Biblical cosmivision**

Biblical basis: Ephesians 6:12-18; 1 John 3:1-10; Daniel 10; 2 Chronicles 18:18-23

- 1- Biblical concept of the world. The physical world and the spiritual world.
- 2- Recognising the war. The battle against flesh and sin. The battle against the world. The battle against Satan and his demons.
- 3- Christ's victory (Colossians 2:9-15).
- 4- The relationship between preaching and spiritual warfare (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).
- 5- How to lead a boat to fishing success. Spiritual confrontation.

Understand the influence of the devil over the lost and understand how creation works. It will be key for the success of our preaching.

Class 9

Theme: **Inner Health 1**

Biblical basis: 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 17-21; Proverbs 6:2

- 1- Concept of man as a unit. Spirit, soul and body.
- 2- Concept of the stronghold. How they form and how they operate.
- 3- What it means to be a new creature. Emotional health.
- 4- Identification of personal strongholds.

Class 10

Theme: **Inner Health 2**

Biblical basis: Proverbs 22:6; 2 Corinthians 10:4

- 1- Curses and blessings. The power of words.
- 2- How to break down a stronghold.
- 3- Several considerations when ministering inner healing.
- 4- General concepts of freedom.
- 5- How to minister freedom in the streets.

Class 11

Theme: **The Holy Spirit – spiritual gifts**

Biblical basis: 1 John 4:13; Ephesians 1:13; Acts 15:28; Acts 16:6

- 1- The Holy Spirit as the leader of the church. The example of the primitive church in Acts.
- 2- The work of the Holy Spirit in new believers. Trust in the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 3- Our personal relationship with the Holy Spirit
- 4- The work of the Holy Spirit when ministering in the street
- 5- The use and recognition of gifts. Relationship between gifts and calling. The street as the best and first place to use the gifts.

Class 12

Theme: **Ministering the fullness of the Holy Spirit**

This class is totally dedicated to filling the aspiring pilots with the Holy Spirit so that they can be the instruments of god to the nations.

The aim of the School of Aspiring Pilots is to form servants who feel a sense of urgency to save the lost. Bible studies, devotionals, how to prepare the class, boat meetings and so on are provided for within the structure of the classes, there are no specific classes that cover this.

TO BE A GOOD PILOT

All are sheep, all are witnesses, all are priests with the urgency of taking the gospel to the ends of the earth

- 1- The assigned boat is the natural environment for ministering and the laying on of hands. The pastors can ask that they minister in other situations or environments if it is necessary.
- 2- Use the materials that are provided, do not use new materials without consulting the pastors. If you would like to suggest the use of some new material feel free to write it down and give it to one of the pastors.
- 3- Whenever fishing in places that involve official organisations, political powers, or any other entities, consult an elder or pastor before you go.
- 4- Always remember that fishing is the primary objective. If you aren't doing it your leaders will try and encourage you to do so. If however you still don't do it, you will not be allowed to continue as a pilot.
- 5- Look after your fishermen. Communicate with them, no matter what changes of timetable or activities they produce. Remember to consult your pilot if you need to change times.
- 6- Briefly treat the personal problems of your fishermen in the boat meetings by seeking the intervention of God through prayer. If they need more time, arrange for a personal meeting at another time when you can minister to them.
- 7- At the end of a fishing trip entrust the fruits to God and pray for the people that received Christ. They are God's children and he is looking after them.
- 8- Always provide your fishermen with the necessary guide materials and remember to return your log book.
- 9- The log books have to reflect the activities of the boat. They have to be used in the place of meeting and remain the property of the church. The pastors and elders communicate with each other and receive information via the log books. We cannot evaluate the task without this information. Do not take the log book home with you. Fill it out in the place where you have the meeting.
- 10- The pastoral body uses the information about the state of the fishermen to decide if it's necessary to take them out of the boat or not. It is not the responsibility of the pilot to take this decision. The pilots must try to help a fisherman in every way possible.

SURVEY 2

Do you remember taking part in a survey about the future?

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You asked God for something, do you remember what it was?

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What were the results?

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At this time you received Jesus in your life. How did you feel? Now that you've received Jesus you have got strength and a companion to help you combat life and assure your eternal salvation.

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I would like to contact you in the future, what's the best way?

Visit	Letter	Phone
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Child	Youth	Adult
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Name.....

Address.....

Tel no.....

Comments.....

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Survey carried out by.....Date.....

SURVEY 3

What is God doing in your life?

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Have you noticed any changes in your family or yourself?

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Have you shared your experience of meeting Jesus with anybody?

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Do you feel the need to meet with people that have had the same experience of faith?

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Do you know anything about the opportunities that *Cristo Para Todos* offers to help people develop their relationship with Jesus?

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.....

Child

Youth

Adult

Name.....

Address.....

Tel no.....

Comments.....

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.....
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Survey carried out by.....Date.....