





## Haiti's Neighbor -- Living on the Border and On the Edge

By Mark Holston

JIMANI, Dominican Republic -- In better days, this tidy, tree-lined community of 10,000 sustained bustling market place and displayed all the signs of economic vitality. The streets were clogged with out-of-town trucks and buses packed with people and goods, and a busy fleet of makeshift taxis did a brisk business running people to and from the port-of-entry on the Haitian border just two miles to the west.

But these days, the enterprising local man who had converted a small truck and a large trailer into an expensive open-air bus to ferry visitors back and forth to the border is out of work. He sits idly on Jimani's main street watching a group of similarly unemployed residents play dominoes.

Shoeshine boys approach Dominican soldiers, their only clients now. Traffic has been reduced to Dominican army vehicles, which have deployed close to 20,000 troops along the 153-mile border. Under pressure from the United States, the government has invoked the full measure of United Nations and Organization of American States sanctions against its neighbor country. The action has effectively closed the border to any transit of goods and people.

Following a highly disputed presidential election May 16, tensions in the Dominican Republic have been running high between the two parties that claimed victory. Officially, the aged incumbent, President Joaquín Balaguer, has been reelected to his sixth term. However, it had been reported that up to 200,000 Dominicans from the provinces did not receive their election ballots, an "oversight" President Bill Clinton's Administration rushed to investigate. Curiously enough, once Balaguer bowed to U.S. pressure and, like opposition candidate Francisco Peña Gómez, agreed to support a full trade embargo against Haiti, the investigation was quickly

forgotten. Balaguer's decision has provoked criticism and controversy. Dominicans are becoming increasingly nervous about the long-term ramifications of the embargo. Most believe it will augment the suffering of the Haitian masses and do little to restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. What will happen, they ask, when the shortage of food becomes so critical that the only feasible option for millions of starving Haitians will be to look to the Dominican border as their best chance to escape their misery?

The humanitarian dimensions of the crisis are staggering. The Dominican Republic, with a population of close to 8 million, already plays host to as many as 1.5 million Haitians, many of them as undocumented residents and virtually all confined to the lowest rungs of the Dominican economic ladder.

Reminiscent of the predominantly Mexican migrant labor camps throughout the North and Southwestern United States, the dusty, plantation-style camps that dot the Dominican Republic's sugar cane farms testify to the hard life of the Haitians who have already crossed the border and established themselves in their more prosperous sister country. But even the hint of improved conditions is a lure Dominicans fear will ultimately provoke thousands more Haitians to seek refuge across the border.

The crossings are typical of the current situation, according to the Dominican military high command, with small gangs of Haitians passing over the border under cover of night to steal gasoline and other goods. The incentive is high: a gallon of gasoline, worth about \$2 in the Dominican Republic, fetches up to \$20 today in fuel-starved Haiti.

But authorities and the public alike are deeply concerned about the price they

may eventually have to pay for being on the front line of this international crisis. While residents of the border region are increasingly vocal about the economic ramifications of the embargo, Dominican government officials, the clergy, social assistance agencies and many in the general public who have the larger humanitarian issue in mind, see the makings of a catastrophe.

On the one hand, there is a genuine concern for the plight of the disfranchised Haitians. On the other are wholly pragmatic concerns about the effect on the already fragile Dominican socio-economic system if the country is forced to absorb additional hundreds of thousands of poor Haitians. Yet, despite an overriding mood of hesitation, the scene in Jimani and other Dominican border towns today suggests that the Dominicans are serious about observing the total embargo against Haiti and its illegitimate military-dominated regimes.

(Mark Holston, of Kalispell, Montana, is a free-lance writer who frequently travels to the Caribbean and writes on its politics.)

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## El Vecino De Hati Viviendo En La Frontera Y Al Borde

Por Mark Holston

JIMANI, Republica Dominicana -- En mejores días, esta comunidad aseada, bordeada de árboles, con 10,000 habitantes, mantiene un mercado animado y despliega todas las señales de vitalidad económica. Las calles están congestionadas de camiones que vienen de fuera y de autobuses llenos de pasajeros y artículos, y una flotilla ocupada de taxis improvisados hace buen negocio llevando y trayendo a las personas desde el puerto de entrada a la frontera haitiana, a solo dos millas al oeste.

Pero en estos días, el empresario local que había convertido un camioncito y un gran semi-remolque en un autobús abierto costoso para transportar a los visitantes hacia la frontera y de regreso, está sin trabajo. El está senta-

do sin hacer nada en la calle principal de Jimani, observando a un grupo de residentes, igualmente desempleados, jugar al domino.

Los muchachos limpiabotas se aproximan a los soldados dominicanos, sus únicos clientes de ahora. El tránsito se ha reducido a los vehículos militares dominicanos, que han desplegado cerca de 20,000 soldados a lo largo de la frontera de 250 kilómetros. Bajo la presión de los Estados Unidos, el gobierno ha invocado toda la medida de las sanciones de las Naciones Unidas y la Organización de los Estados Americanos en contra de su nación vecina. La acción ha cerrado efectivamente la frontera a cualquier tránsito de artículos y personas.

A continuación de las elecciones presidenciales del 16

de mayo último, acaloradamente disputadas, las tensiones han estado altas en la República Dominicana entre los dos partidos que alegaron haber recibido la victoria. Oficialmente, el titular anciano, el Presidente Joaquín Balaguer, ha sido re-elección para un sexto periodo. Sin embargo, se había informado que hasta 200,000 dominicanos de las provincias no recibieron sus boletas electorales, una "omisión" que el gobierno del Presidente Bill Clinton se apresuro a investigar. Es suficientemente curioso que una vez que el Presidente Balaguer se plego a la presión de los Estados Unidos y, como el candidato de la oposición, Francisco Peña Gómez, acordó apoyar al embargo comercial pleno contra Haití, la investigación fué olvidada rápidamente.

La decisión de Balaguer ha provocado crítica y controversia. Los dominicanos se hallan cada vez más nerviosos acerca de las ramificaciones a largo plazo del embargo. La mayoría cree que el mismo aumentará el sufrimiento de las masas haitianas y que hará poco para restablecer al expulsado Presidente Jean Bertrand Aristide al poder. ¿Qué sucederá, preguntan ellos, cuando la escasez de alimentos llegue a ser tan crítica que la única alternativa posible para millones de haitianos hambrientos sea la de mirar hacia la frontera dominicana como su mejor oportunidad para escapar de su miseria?

Las dimensiones humanitarias de la crisis son impresionantes. La República Dominicana, con una población cercana a los 8 millones, ya alberga a tanto como 1.5 millones de haitianos, muchos de ellos como residentes indocumentados y todos virtualmente confinados a los peñales más bajos de la escala económica dominicana.

Los campamentos polvorientos al estilo de las plantaciones que puntúan las granjas de cultivo de caña de azúcar de la República Dominicana y que hacen recordar a los campamentos de trabajadores agrícolas migratorios predominantemente mexicanos de los Estados Unidos del norte y el suroeste, dan testimonio de la vida difícil de los haitianos que ya han atravesado la frontera y se han establecido en su nación hermana más prospera. Pero hasta la insinuación de las circunstancias mejores es un atractivo que los dominicanos temen que provocará en última instancia a millares de otros haitianos a procurar refugio del otro lado de la frontera.

Los cruces de la frontera son típicos de la situación actual, según dice el alto mando militar dominicano, en los que pequeños grupos de haitianos atraviesan la frontera al amparo de la noche para robar gasolina y otros artículos. El estímulo es alto: Un galón de gasolina, que vale \$2 en la República Dominicana, asciende a \$20 actualmente en Haití, que está hambriento de combustible.

Pero tanto las autoridades como el público están preocupados profundamente sobre el precio que con el tiempo puedan tener que pagar por hallarse en la línea del frente de esta crisis internacional. Mientras que los residentes de la región fronteriza se manifiestan cada vez en mayor medida sobre las ramificaciones económicas del embargo, los funcionarios del gobierno dominicano, el clero, las entidades del servicio social y muchos miembros del público en general que tienen en cuenta el asunto humanitario de mayor cuantía, ven las señales de una catástrofe.

Por una parte hay una preocupación genuina por las dificultades de los haitianos desposeídos.

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## News Briefs

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Among hospitals with at least 1,500 Medicare cases, death rates ranged from a low of 3% actual and 4.3% adjusted at the Deborah Heart & Lung Center in Browns Mills, NJ to a high of 20.6% actual and 18.8% adjusted at San Juan Municipal Hospital in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

The Consumers' Guide to Hospitals costs \$12 and is available by mail from: Hospital Guide, 733 15th St. N.W., Suite 820; Washington, D.C. 20005; or by calling 1-800-475-7283.

### Hotlines See Jump in Abuse Reports

One result of the intensive coverage of the Simpson murder case has been to force domestic violence into the public consciousness, pushing many women to seek help. The San Jose Mercury reports that local domestic abuse hotlines have been deluged with calls during the past three days.

"Unfortunately women in battering situations don't want to believe they can be hurt severely or even murdered," said a crisis line staffer. "The motivation it takes to pick up the phone is so great. A situation like this helps them see they need to make that call."

Nationally, one out of every three women who are murdered are killed by a former lover or partner.

Also citing the Simpson case, the CA Assembly on Monday approved a bill seeking domestic-violence training for judges. "Judge Ronald Schoenberg, who sentenced Simpson to three months of telephone counseling for beating his wife in 1989 did not understand domestic violence," said Assemblyman Bob Epple, whose resolution would require judges to have one day of training in the issue.

### House Passes Housing Bill

AP reports that the House approved a bill that increases the loan guarantee authorities of the FHA insurance programs by \$38 billion and Ginnie Mae, by \$55 million. The bill also includes \$18 billion for subsidy costs of FHA loan guarantees for multi-family rental housing.

Rep. Joseph M. McDade, R-PA, said the measure wouldn't cost taxpayers anything because the FHA and Ginnie Mae both pay for themselves. The bill includes an outlay of \$300,000, more than offset by an expected \$2.4 million in increased FHA fee collections because of the increased loan guarantees.

### Poll: 5% of Teens Attempted Suicide

AP reports that a poll by New York's Gallup Organization found that 5% of U.S. teens say they have tried to commit suicide and 12% said they have come close.

Those who had considered suicide cited multiple reasons: 36% said because of problems growing up; 35%, drug abuse; 31%, peer pressure; 28%, getting along with parents. The poll was conducted during April and May among a random sample of U.S. children ages 13 to 19 who filled out confidential questionnaires.

The sample's average family income was above \$50,000, had more white teens than the general population and had 43% reporting that one or both parents were college educated. George Gallup Jr., co-chairman of the survey company said the results were adjusted to account for the upscale profile, which other experts said might result in underestimates of the problem.

### Study Focuses On Teen Mothers

AP reports researchers studying teen mothers on welfare describe their report as a "reality check" for the Clinton administration's reform plan. Manpower Demonstration Research Corp., a New York-based organization which designs and studies programs intended to help disadvantaged people, said its study indicates that attempts to curb repeated childbearing and lift young mothers on welfare out of poverty are not succeeding to any meaningful extent.

The report is based on a large-scale study of New Chance, a demonstration program that provides comprehensive services to women who dropped out of high school and had their first children as teens.

New Chance helped more than one-third of participants acquire a high school equivalency certificate. Many of them went on to vocational training or a work internship. However, participants in the program, operating in 10 states, have had high rates of repeat pregnancies and more than 80% were still on welfare 18 months after enrolling.

Researchers said their study illustrates the vulnerability of these young mothers, the focus of President Clinton's \$9.3 billion welfare overhaul. "We have yet to identify strategies of proven effectiveness," said the group's president Judith M. Gueron, "in contrast to the fairly consistent success of welfare-to-work programs for older women. This is a warning to those who hope for quick success with this population."

Robert C. Granger, the New Chance project director, said the challenge is to translate GEDs into jobs. He said the findings also suggest that large numbers of young women could be pushed into government-sponsored work programs when their cash welfare benefits run out after two years.

A record 14.4 million people, including 9.7 million children, now receive cash assistance from Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the nation's largest cash welfare program. It is estimated that half of all welfare households are headed by women who first gave birth as teen-agers.

### U.S. Scores Low in Health Study

The Chronicle Wire Services report that a UNICEF study found that developing nations do a better job using their limited resources in caring for women and children than do the U.S. and Europe.

In its study, "Progress of Nations," the U.N. Children's Fund gave the United States low marks in rating 192 nations on health care, education and the quality of life for mothers and children. For example, only 77% of U.S. infants were vaccinated against measles in 1992 -- a rate lower than many developing countries.

# Supreme Court Allows English Only Rule at Work

By James Vicini

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court said Monday a company can require its employees to speak only English at work, rejecting an appeal arguing that the rule violates the federal civil rights law.

At issue was an appeal by two workers and their union, supported by the Justice Department, challenging their employer's decision to require all plant workers to speak only English.

The Justice Department urged the high court to hear the case, saying an English-only work rule discriminates against minorities unless justified by business necessity.

It noted the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has 120 complaints before it against 67 different employers who have imposed English-only rules.

But the Supreme Court, over the dissent of Justices Harry Blackmun and Sandra Day O'Connor, turned down the appeal without any comment.

Although the Supreme Court action in the case does not create a national precedent, it nonetheless could encourage other companies to adopt similar rules.

In the Supreme Court case, Spun Steak Company, a meat processing firm in San Francisco, has 33 employees, mostly Hispanics and almost all of them bilingual.

The company adopted the policy in 1990 after complaints that two employees had made derogatory, racist comments in Spanish about two co-workers -- a black and a

Chinese-American.

The company's president claimed the English-only rule would promote racial harmony in the workplace and enhance worker safety. It also barred any offensive racial, sexual or personal remarks of any kind.

The company did allow some written exceptions to its policy, allowing its clean-up crew, its foreman and certain workers to speak Spanish.

But the two employees, Priscilla Garcia and Maricela Buitrago, received a warning for speaking Spanish soon after the policy had been adopted. The two employees, both fluent in English, also were not permitted to work next to each other.

Buitrago charged that the company's president, Kenneth Bertelsen, then had yelled at her for speaking Spanish.

"When I complained that his treatment was unfair, he jabbed at me with his finger and told me to 'go back to your own country' if I wanted to speak Spanish," she said.

The two workers, backed by the AFL-CIO's food and commercial workers union, sued, claiming the policy violated the federal civil rights law by creating an atmosphere of inferiority, isolation and intimidation.

A federal judge agreed, ruling the policy had a discriminatory impact on Hispanic workers without sufficient business justification.

But a divided U.S. Court of Appeals said the union had failed to make a sufficient case that the policy had violat-

ed the rights of the company's bilingual employees.

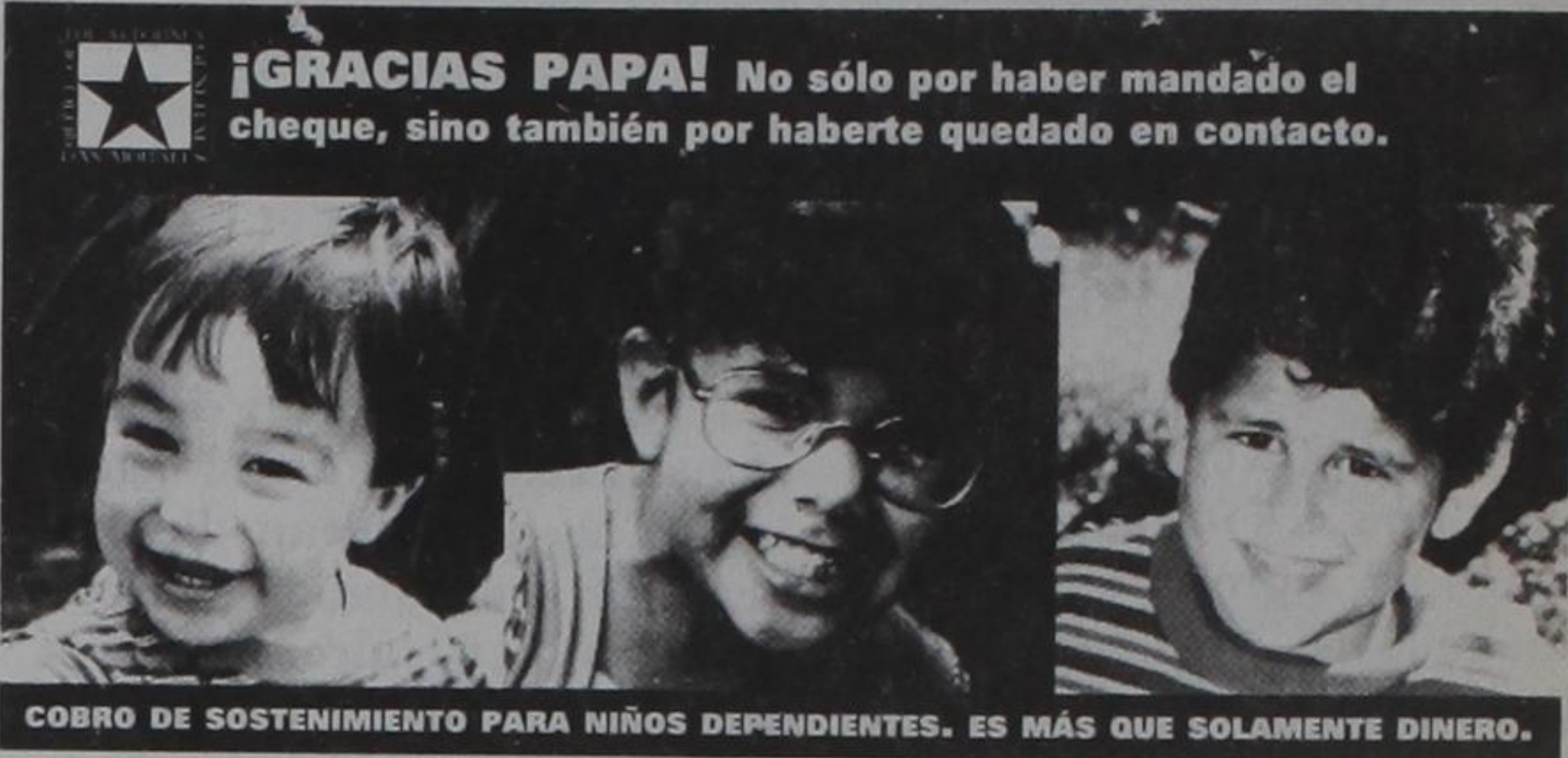
It ordered more hearings on whether the policy adversely affected workers with a limited proficiency in English.

Attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union, representing the two workers and the union, appealed to the Supreme Court to hear the case.

Supporting them were various advocacy groups, includ-

ing the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund and the Women's Legal Defense Fund, and the Justice Department's Solicitor General Drew Days.

Days said the appeals court decision would invalidate the federal government's policy since 1970 against English-only rules and that the rules significantly handicap the ability of bilingual employees to communicate on the job.



### .....ATTENTION.....

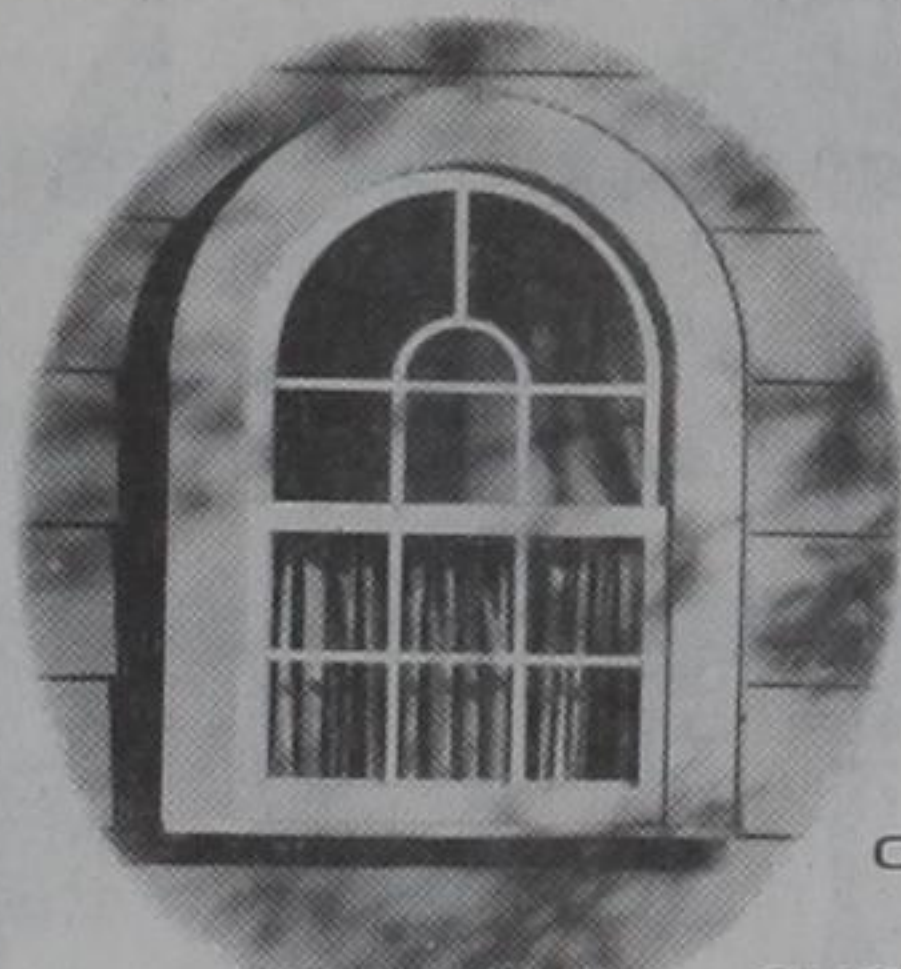
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# Un Rayito De Luz

Por Sofia Martinez

En nuestros tiempos toda via hay milagros. Cuado los creyentes piensan que un milagro es una intervencion extraordinaria de Dios, estan en la verdad. Hacen propias las palabras que Nicodemo le dijo a Jesucristo: "Nadie puede hacer las señales que tu haces si Dios no esta con el". (Juan 3,2); y tambien las palabras de Jesus que proclama: "Las obras que el Padre me ha ordenado cumplir dan testimonio de mi". Juan 5, 36).

Analizando un poco mejor esas obras de que habla Jesus, los teologos descubren que esas obras se cumplen de acuerdo a un sabio plan de amor; que Dios, usando Su poder, concede aquello que la naturaleza no puede darnos, y estos nos causa admiracion y asombro. En realidad, no se realiza el milagro si no hay estos tres elementos: Poder de Dios, amor lleno de sabiduria y admiracion.

Desgraciadamente, cuando hablamos de "milagro", ponemos nuestra atencion, casi nomas, en uno solo de los tres elementos y que es, despues de todos, lo mas superficial: lo maravilloso del hecho y el asombro que provoca. Pero, asi, corremos el riesgo de que sea, nomas, una ilusion. Para la Iglesia no esasi, ella sabe muy bien en que consiste el milagro.

Luego, es un verdadero problema encontrar un metodo unico para decir si es un verdadero milagro, o si no es un verdadero milagro; porque los conocimientos cientificos y conocimientos medicos siempre estan cambiando. Hoy un cientifico serio sabe que nunca esta en grado de decir la ultima palabra. Por eso, ante una curacion inexplicable, no da su opinion absolutamente valida para siempre. Solamente dice: "A nosotros, hoy, se nos ahce imposible explicar esta curacion".

Actualmente esta es la conducta seria de personas verdaderamente cientificas. A este corresponde, por parte de la Iglesia, una linea de profundizacion teologica sobre los "sucesos milagrosos", de tal forma que se pueda comprobar que verdaderamente es un milagro concedido por Dios.

Si los milagros siguen sucediendo es porque Dios nos ama y, El, es todopoderoso. Los milagros de hoy comprueban los milagros de antes y dan testimonio de los milagros que narra el Santo Evangelio, los cuales ya estan muy bien comprobados historicamente y el mas grande es el de la Resurreccion de Jesucristo. en el de la Resurreccion se manifiesto la Divinidad en toda su plenitud.

Por otra parte, si todo lo guia la Divina Sabiduria, debemos de entender porque algunas de nuestras peticiones no han sido concedidas. Por ejemplo: Cristo no quiso desperdiciar milagros ante el Rey Herodes; ni quiso complacer a los que le gritaban cuando estaba agonizando en la cruz, porque hubiera sido un "milagro" inutil y deniño. Jesucristo tenia que morir para resucitar al tercer dia y entrar en Su gloria". (Lucas 24,26)

Parece que, en nuestro tiempo, no deberiamos de esperar milagros mas grandes que aquellos que Dios hizo en los primeros tiempos del cristianismo, ni milagros que, por su apariencia maravillosa, para convertirnos y ser santos. Mejor seamos santos haciendo el bien y evitando el mal por amor a Dios y, entonces...Dios nos hara muchisimos milagros. (Genesis I, 1 y siguientes). (Juan 14, 12-13).

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2 Corintios 6

2: Porque dice: En tiempo aceptable te he oido, Y en dia de salvacion te he socorrido. He aqui ahora el tiempo aceptable; he aqui ahora el dia de salvacion. 2: (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accept-

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\*\*\*\*\*

All prospective bidders are encouraged to attend the Pre-Bidders' Conference which will be held at the Texas Department of Transportation's District Office at:

3901 East Highway 80 Odessa, Texas 79761 2:00 P.M.; Tuesday, June 28, 1994

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Men's Open (Limit 20) , Men's Class D (Limit 32), Class E (Limit 28), Women's (Limit 16), Co-Ed (Limit 16) Top 25% Qualify for Texas State Softball SuperCup to be Held Sept. 2, 3, 4 & 5

### Men's Tournaments

Prizes Include: 1-3 Custom Made Trophy for Sponsor or Coach 6 button shirts for 1st Place in Every Category

3 button shirts for 2nd Place in all categories Individual Tournament Long Sleeve for 3rd in all categories, Individual Prizes for 4th, 5th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, 23rd, 29th, & 1 Set T-Shirts for Good Sport Team. Many More Prizes for Individual Players include T-Shirts, Caps, Individual dinners, bar tabs, beer, haircuts and more to be given. MVP & Golden Glove Prize - All Prizes Delivered Immediately after games! Championship game will be broadcast LIVE over RADIO Entry Fee- \$135 - Deadline July 25

### Women's Tournament

Prizes Include: 1-3 Team Custom Made Trophy for Sponsor or Coach

V-Neck Shirt & Shorts for 1st 3 button shirts for 2nd Place Individual Tourney Long Sleeve for 3rd Many More Individual Prizes Entry Fee Deadline July 25 - \$100

### Co-Ed Tournament

Prizes Include: 1-3 Team Custom Made Trophy for Sponsor or Coach

6 button shirts for 1st Place Individual Tourney Long Sleeve for 2nd Individual Tourney T-Shirts for 3rd Many More Individual Prizes Entry Fee Deadline July 25 - \$110

All Tournaments Double Elimination

For More Information Call In Lubbock - 763-3841 or 1-800-787-4532

SEND ENTRY FORM TO: EL EDITOR - 1502 Ave. M LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79401

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS / CATEGORY \_\_\_\_\_

Mgr \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Guaranteed Delivery of All Prizes Immediately after games