

COMRADES IN MEXICO DISCUSS HEAVEN AND EARTH

In an ICWP study group, we talked about religion and communism. This came up because several of us have had contact with workers who could join ICWP and who are religious. We all agree that we've had ties with believers and that often they haven't been won. On the contrary they have distanced themselves from us after we confront the ideas they defend. Here we write about some ideas that we discussed that have been treacherously instilled in the believers by the exploiters.

They have made us believe, as an oppressed class, that the Kingdom of God is not of this earth. They say that heaven (paradise) is where we'll enjoy our reward for having suffered the injustices of the wealth that creates the divisions in which we live. This argument was instilled when the *Bible* was modified in the 13th century. After they recommended that using the name of God in vain is a sin, the word "God" was substituted for heaven and added to the prayers, painted in murals, and engraved in the minds of many workers. That's because the exploiters were afraid that the poor (or the "just," according to the church)

would challenge them in this world.

The believers see it as bad that we want to achieve communism through the violent road, forgetting that this is the only way that the exploiters will surrender the means of production. We have to convince them by using some violent passages from the *Bible*, like when Jesus and his followers drove the Pharisees from the temple. Capitalism kills us with hunger while there is food, and with sickness while there is a cure...We must ask which is more violent: to shoot a bullet or to keep us from eating? Is it less vicious to shorten a person's life and vitality than to cut it off suddenly? To defend our life is something we cannot renounce.

No Christian document mentions the wicked without contrasting them to the poor. Therefore, to be rich is to be wicked and to be poor is to be just. For example, a passage in the New Testament says, "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God." We could use this to say that the only way to save the rich is to deprive them of that which makes

them wicked.

They accuse us communists of caring more about humanity than God, and that's really the case. In what way could we "give food to the hungry or cure the sick," as the Catholics say, if we leave the means of production in the hands of the exploiters?

We comrades in the meeting accepted that there are well-intentioned people who come around the Catholic Church when they don't find another option. We think that there are many people who are winnable to ICWP. We should know how to explain to them, have reasons, and know how to win them to communism, rather than confronting them and driving them away.

It's an honor to be a communist. Communism has been a project of humanity from periods long ago: Spartacus, Jesus, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao have been episodes of this project. In this historic moment, ICWP is the vanguard and it's up to us to move forward the only project of salvation for the workers. Join ICWP.