

What does Justice mean to Christians?

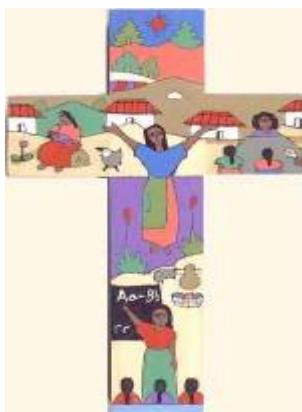
Maria Gomez - working against injustice

Maria Gomez was a teacher in El Salvador, which is in central America. She went to a church that tried to help poor people. She was an ordinary person but she lived in a country with lots of problems. Maria was a teacher and liked to help people to read. She believed that if people could read then they could keep up to date with current affairs in El Salvador. The farmers would be able to read information about how to farm better and everyone would be able to read about the 'rights' that they have.

In April 1989 armed men went to her school and shoved her into a van (in front of her pupils). Her body was later found by a roadside. She had been beaten and shot. She had been murdered by people working

How is Maria remembered?

Maria's friends felt that Maria's work should be remembered so they had the following wooden cross painted.



What can you see on the cross?

Key Words

Justice Maria Gomez

Injustice El Salvador

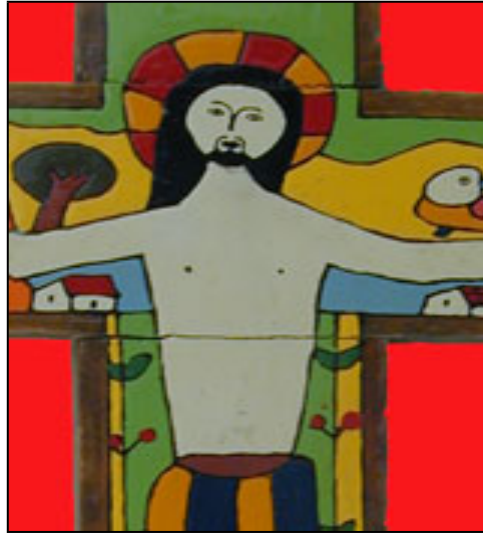
Christian Poverty Racism

What was the situation in El Salvador?

El Salvador is a country in Central America. For years it was ruled by 14 of the most powerful families they were used to getting what they wanted. They made sure that the other people living there remained poor, while at the same time they were becoming richer and richer. If the other people complained they would be arrested and even murdered. This was unjust and many people were unhappy. Some people tried to start a war as elections were not run in a fair way. but Maria Gomez was trying to bring about change in a peaceful way.

So why was Maria prepared to risk her life?....

The main answer to this question was because of her Christian faith. She was inspired to follow in the footsteps of others to fight for what she believes in. She believed that the poor people should fight for what is right. In God's eyes all people are equal.



Tasks

- (1) Write down 3 things that you see on the cross with Maria Gomez. What does this tell us about Maria?
- (2) Why do you think the government wanted Maria killed?
- (3) Why did Maria want justice?
- (4) What did Maria do to help?
- (5) What do you think inspired Maria to risk her life?

Would you be prepared to risk your life to promote justice?