

# GTC GOSPEL THROUGH COLOMBIA

Equipping church leaders in Colombia to proclaim the gospel throughout Latin America

*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'* Matthew 9:36-38

July 3, 2010

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Dear Brethren in Christ,

Please forgive us for the length of this letter, but we have so much to share with you this month. We have included the testimonies of short term missionaries who have recently visited Colombia with GTC. Be encouraged—as we are!

We welcome anyone who would like to visit the GTC mission field. The necessary infrastructure and bilingual personnel in South America have been set to make your stay comfortable.

Bryant Skinner Jr., President of GTC, thanks Dr. R.C. Sproul and the Elders of St. Andrew's for sending Pastor Burk Parsons and a church team to labor and explore the mission work in South America. The team consisted of Pastor Burk Parsons, Jack Rombough, Elder Steve DeLoach Jr., Elder Bob Haley, Jason McNerney and Daryl Reed.

Our gratitude extends, also, to Professor Thomas Woodward, Ph.D., for providing invaluable, effective, highly academic, extremely exiting and godly teaching in six cities during this trip.

## THE TEAM IN BOGOTA

Upon arrival in Bogotá, the team visited the GTC headquarters building where Pastor Guillermo Gomez, a native, ended a prayer time with a devotional message. He spoke about the dangerous condition of a pastor who has knowledge of reformed theology, but lacks compassion and cannot demonstrate his faith and his theology with his life.

All the members of the team gave a great deal of encouragement to the brothers and sisters in Colombia. The visitors felt at home among the saints of Colombia, even though they spoke another language. It was a huge encouragement for the Colombians to see that the church in America loves them so much to the point of taking time to visit them.

The teaching of Pastor Parsons in Bogotá, dealing with the Doctrine of Grace and the Sovereignty of God, was so well received that the books related to his theme, namely, Chosen by God, by R. C. Sproul, were sold out. We thank God for Pastor Parsons' ability to present these doctrines with grace, compassion, and clarity. His confidence in the Word of God moved many pastors to confirm these truths in their bibles, and to show public enthusiasm for them. The high motivation of the audience was specially demonstrated during the Q&A period. The moderator had to insist on terminating the Q&A session, as it continued one hour beyond the time designated.

## THE TEAM IN MEDELLIN

The team arrived in beautiful Medellin on Saturday night. On the Lord's Day, Sunday school began at 9:15 a.m. The entire congregation was present. All members of the team shared their greetings. The team received an overwhelming welcome. After a fellowship luncheon at the church, the conference began. It lasted until 6:00 p.m. Instead of losing attendees, more people, pastors and church leaders from other churches began to arrive.

Pastor Parsons dealt again with the Doctrines of Grace, but this time, talking to a mature reformed church. He confirmed the need to hold on to the reformation truths, but cautioned the pastors and the audience regarding the need to demonstrate compassion. He reminded all God's pure mercy allowed us to understand and be convicted by His Word.

***To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Eph. 4:12 ESV***

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On Monday, Pastor Parsons gave a four hour seminar to pastors only. He taught on the responsibilities of the pastor and the need for preparation, education, spiritual growth and accountability. This seminar was so intense and so convicting that the pastors agreed to continue this pastors' interaction and studies every first Monday of the month.

### THEOLOGICAL ACADEMY BEGINS IN MEDELLIN

Because of Pastor Parsons' message in Medellin, the GTC leadership there has decided to open the Academy for Pastors in Medellin as early as September 2010. Forty candidates have already registered

This academy is not intended to replace the educational training offered through the Miami International Seminary (MINTS). The main objective of the Academy for Pastors is to give pastors opportunities to spend a week per module, every three months and to study two subjects in each module. This program is designed for pastors to establish friendships and accountability, motivate each other toward spiritual growth and sanctification, and encourage each other in the task of reforming their congregations.

The cost of each module, to GTC, for 50 pastors will be about \$2,500 dollars. Please pray that God will provide the funds. Missionary professors obtain their own support for traveling expenses. This is where YOU CAN HELP!

### TESTIMONIES OF GOD'S LOVE FOR GTC

Professor Woodward writes:

*One of my former students, now Pastor Burk Parsons, introduced me to Dr. Noé S. Acosta, Executive Director of Gospel Through Colombia. GTC is one of the most extensive and effective training ministries for pastors in Latin America, through conferences, biblical academies and theological seminaries. Dr. Acosta recruited me to teach in six cities in South America. This trip proved to be one of the most intense and profitable ministry experiences I've ever had on the foreign field.*

*Not counting the TV interview, which broadcast, by cable, the message of creation and Christ as Creator and Redeemer throughout Colombia and Latin America, I spoke face to face with about 2,700 people.*

*The excitement and enthusiasm of attendees to share what they learned was amazing. Besides the conferences, there was equipping time with exclusive seminars only for pastors. This was incredible profitable. The advance promotion efforts of GTC were so outstanding. The success was a thing to behold. To God be ALL the glory.*

*In each of the six cities, we had a packed-out audience. The events were held at hotels and churches. At one church in Monteria, the church had no room left over, so many chairs were set up outside the church in an adjacent courtyard so that the overflow crowd could listen through the huge windows on the side of the church.*

Dr. Woodward's seminar, "The Key to the Mystery of Life," included three strong lines of evidence that point to an intelligent designer, including: (1) the digital code found in DNA, RNA and proteins; (2) the pattern of fossils that appear abruptly, without transitional forms, and then fall into a rut of stagnation—a pattern of "no-change" or "stasis"; (3) the abundance of tiny molecular machines in living cells which are "irreducibly complex." As a result, they cannot plausibly have evolved, step-by-step, from simple precursors.

Dr. Woodward concludes: *As I worked with the organizers, all affiliated with Gospel Through Colombia, I included a section of the seminar on historical and biblical apologetics, by which one can conclude that the Creator (Intelligent Designer) is none other than the Messiah and God-Man, Jesus Christ. That was, perhaps, the highlight of each seminar, as I explained the fantastic (risky!) predictions that are so numerous in the Biblical record. The fulfillment of these predictions serves as clear markers of supernatural origin of the Bible. Christ is the God-man who is Creator and Redeemer!*

Elder Bob Haley:

*GTC is doing a great work in Colombia. It was a real blessing for me to see part of that work in Bogotá and Medellín. The people in both cities were very outgoing and hungering for the Word. The teaching by Pastor Parson was well received. I was impressed by the range of ages that attended the conferences, teenagers to seniors -- all wanting to know more about the reformed faith. Our first encounter with the pastors set the tone for our short stay as we heard a sermon on "living by faith" from one of the native pastors.*

*The cities are modern and the mountains that surround them are breath-taking.*

*The most touching time was when Pastor Parson spoke to a gathering of 24 pastors on the "Responsibilities of a Pastor." He did a wonderful job and kept the interest of the pastors for about 4 hours. At the end of the session each pastor was asked to share a prayer request with us. I was floored by what they requested: More education for themselves, better facilities to meet in, Sunday school materials in Spanish, and, the one that hit me the hardest, Spanish Bibles for their people.*

*I plan to learn Spanish, so when I go back I can share and even teach a class or two, Lord willing.*

*If you are a supporter of GTC, you need to take time to visit one of the cities that GTC is working in - to see how this ministry has impacted the people and how far a reach the ministry has. It will thrill your heart and encourage you to continue to support GTC both with your prayers and finances.*

Jack Rombough:

*This was my first Mission Trip. The moment we arrived in Bogotá, on Thursday, the work did not stop until our return flight from Medellín on Monday evening.*

*I now know a lot more about Gospel Through Colombia. They are making a difference in Colombia. Whether it was the congregations in Bogota, or the Pastor's Conference in Medellín on Monday, I was moved by the infrastructure that GTC has built in this country, providing an epicenter of pastoral training for Latin America.*

*The presence of Rev. Parsons was a great encouragement, not only to Colombian Christians, but also, to the ones who do not know the Doctrine of Grace. Although there was a language difference, simultaneous translation was always provided.*

*I was informed that, as result of the impact of Pastor Parsons' teaching, over 40 pastors registered to study in the first Pastors' Academy in Medellín. The Academy will serve to further their seminary studies, and engage pastors in character development, spiritual maturity, and building relationships for accountability.*

*Although much has been done, the Lord is calling us to do more. I encourage you to consider joining us in bringing the Doctrines of Grace to the increasing number of people who show interest in Latin America for the pure Word of God.*

Elder Steve DeLoach, Jr., wrote:

*I recently had the privilege to travel to the beautiful country of Colombia and see in person the great work God is performing in the lives of people touched through Gospel Through Colombia. This was my first excursion to the South American continent and I was not exactly sure of what to expect. When I was first approached with visiting Colombia as a representative Elder of Saint Andrews Chapel, visions of manual labor on the side of a mountain in some distant rural village began to fill my mind. How quickly my preconceived ideas of mission work were shattered!*

*Our first stop was the capital city of Bogotá, a city of nearly nine million souls! This is where I first began to grasp the end goal of Gospel Through Colombia: to bring the Gospel of Christ to the people of Latin America. GTC endeavors to complete this goal by properly training the men called to serve the Lord as pastors. We had the opportunity to meet with many pastors who were filled with an eagerness to serve the Lord by teaching and preaching the Gospel to His people. They were equipped with the earnest desire to serve the Lord, but still lacked the structured training and education opportunities that arm a minister of God with sound doctrine and theology. Beyond this obstacle, many pastors lack the ability to pay for their education. I was very impressed with the progress that has been made in Bogota to break down these barriers for pastors called to serve God, as GTC provides partial scholarships. Much work remains to be done!*

*Our second and final stop was the beautiful mountain city of Medellin. This is where I was able to witness the fruits of a true church committed to the preaching and teaching of the Word. We had the opportunity to worship Sunday morning under the leadership of Reverend Julio Benitez. It was truly a wonderful and enriching experience to worship beside fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! At the conclusion of our stay in Medellin, we attended a pastor's conference led by Burk Parsons. This conference was for pastors only. Pastor Parsons clearly taught these men the serious responsibilities of the Pastor, including the need for the minister to be a Christian, his obligation with the family, prayer, preparation, preaching, shepherding, administration, church governing and the applying of church discipline.*

*At the conclusion of our trip, I was struck with the tremendous opportunity that is set before us in Colombia and throughout all of Latin America. Mission trips to build homes and provide much needed medical services are a worthy cause, no doubt. However, the people of God need foremost in their lives the Gospel of God. And they need this above all other earthly wants and desires. There is a greater service provided to the people of Latin America when the men called to serve God as pastors are properly equipped and trained to lead their churches. There is the potential for God to bring about a great revival to the people of Latin America, and Gospel Through Colombia aims to be an instrument to this end.*

The words of these Brothers who decided to see firsthand what GTC is doing have encouraged my heart. I thank God for your support and your rejoicing with us for His mercy upon this mission.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Bryant Skinner, Jr., President

