

GTC GOSPEL THROUGH COLOMBIA

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

...but there some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. Galatians 1:7b NKJ

July 2013

Greetings to you, Dear GTC Friends,

The following is an edited translation of a long letter that Pastor Leonel Ortiz and his wife, Belgica, wrote from the city of Villavicencio. This city is located at the foot of the Andes Mountains, where the geography of Colombia dramatically changes from mountains into extensive planes that touch Venezuela, Brazil and part of the Amazon zone of Colombia.

Pastor Leonel is a strong leader, mentor, pastor, teacher and father-figure to many young pastors who labor in over 15 reformed churches that were planted by the church in Villavicencio and the Presbytery that was born under his leadership. (GTC labors through Presbyterian and Reformed Baptist Churches.)

While GTC continues to cooperate in the pastors' educational program in Villavicencio and throughout Colombia, Pastor Leonel sends a strong message regarding the need for the national churches to become self-supported, if there is hope for the churches to survive after foreign support and missionaries leave.

Dear Brother Noé and Mimi,

God, in his great mercy, placed you and GTC in our lives. We thank God for his abundant and tender provision. You and GTC have been a true blessing for the ministry that He has given us in this country.

This poor country, like in the rest of Latin America, was born under the dark doctrines of Rome Catholicism, which does not proclaim the gospel of Christ. The highest percentage of Colombians is still blinded by those doctrines. Besides this fact, the largest group of nominal Christians in Latin America is, also, blinded by sects that are teaching prosperity, demon expulsions, and the false assurance of salvation given by men in exchange for contributions. The teaching in churches is convoluted by dependence on dreams, tongues and additional revelations from God, angels and spirits, plus the regular business of scheduled times for miracles and wonders. All of these, plus the biblical and theological ignorance of pastors, have been a powerful tool in the hands of the enemy. (For this reason, the biblical education of GTC is badly needed.)

By God's grace, He removed us from this hellish situation and allowed us to know the gospel, to have the certainty of being His children, and the knowledge to faithfully teach and disciple men to preach the Sacred Scriptures alone. It is His mercy that he called us to serve him already for 37 years.

Now we thank God for the glorious Reformed theological knowledge and conviction that He gave us.

Brother Noé, the church in Villavicencio, where you have preached and taught the Doctrines of Grace many times, under the leadership of these three men that God allowed me to disciple and that you know well, because you also ministered to them, has become a flagship in this part of Colombia. This church that you love— and truly loves you—has produced much fruit. I am here with three of my original disciples.



Now, by the mercy of God, we are 34 pastors and elders working for the expansion of the Kingdom. In the picture you can see only 19. To the glory of God, the fruits include a strong presbytery, missions, and ministries and churches in many cities and towns, including Bogotá, Cali, Villavicencio and 10 precious indigenous pastors and missionaries in the far region of Vaupes and Mitú, near the Amazon area of Colombia. This is a glorious crown only to the Glory of God and a beautiful testimony to His fidelity and mercy.



Our hearts are full of gratitude to you and GTC. You have been an integral part on this ministry for many, many years with great faithfulness. You have demonstrated to us in many ways the love of God. We really feel your love for us. Thank you so much for the learning opportunities you have given us.

Please continue to pray for us, especially as one of our immediate goals is to create in the presbytery good habits regarding transparency in all finances. We now are working toward realistic budgets both in the Presbytery and in the individual churches. This will be the norm in the entire Presbytery. We are learning to adapt to models of self-supporting practices even if, for a while, we have to make tents while we work in the ministry that God gave us.



*In the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
Leonel and Belgica Ortiz*

I am grateful to God and to the GTC Board of Directors for allowing me to be part of this great ministry. The more I learn and talk about the hundreds of beautiful stories that were never told, I am blessed by the enthusiasm of the Christians who reassure me about the value of investing in this kind of ministry. It is, indeed, impacting the church in South America as the glorious Doctrines of Grace rapidly spread producing the reformation of many congregations.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Robert Coleman, GTC Assistant Director

[To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Eph. 4:12 ESV](#)

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