

GTC GOSPEL THROUGH COLOMBIA

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

Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. 1 Tim 4:16a

June 2011

Dear Friends of GTC,

During the month of May, I had the privilege of being the first instructor for GTC's new mentoring program. It was a great experience to have a spiritual teaching opportunity in so many pastors' lives. They were representative of all cross sections of life, shepherds of small congregations and eager to learn. I was accompanied by my wife, Diedre, who was a wonderful source of encouragement and companionship during two weeks of travel that spanned seven cities.

My objective was to introduce the first foundational topic in the new mentoring program. I taught *Sola Scriptura*, which is a Reformation phrase from the 1500's and now often used for the Doctrine of the Bible. Sub topics included: *inspiration, inerrancy, development of the canon and text transmission through early church history*. Stress was placed upon the absolute authority of the Bible for faith and practice.

Students, all eager to learn, were comprised of Presbyterian, Baptist and Pentecostal churches, all, leaning on their collective Protestant Heritage, dating back to the Reformation period. Some were surprised to learn that the genesis of their common roots was founded upon the sole inspiration of the Word of God. Care was taken to delineate the difference in authority for faith and practice between the Roman Catholic Church and orthodox Protestantism. While Roman Catholic dogma asserts that the Bible derives its authority from the church, Protestants maintain that the church derives its authority from the Bible.

This was my second teaching opportunity in Colombia and I was impressed, once again, with the commitment of men to see reformation occur within the protestant churches across the country. The need for such reformation is very great, as most protestant congregations are gripped by mysticism and the "health and wealth" heresy. Yet, change is occurring and I remain very thankful to be a part of mission agency, such as GTC, which continues to play an important role for reformation in this magnificent country.

I also had preaching opportunities on Sunday mornings in Barranquilla and Bogotá. I exhorted the saints on the doctrine of "hell", a topic that is the missing jewel in evangelical preaching. My message was clearly stated: *When Jesus suffered the horror of the cross He saved us from hell.*

In closing, I am thankful to have learned about this ambitious reformation effort in Colombia and to have eventually become a participant in the ongoing work of GTC. I wish to encourage pastors to think about the unique and rewarding opportunity that being an instructor for GTC affords. It is like living in the glorious history of the 1500's, but, in reality, being a part of reform for today's saints in the distant land of Colombia.

Sincerely in Him,
Dr. Don E. Galardi, GTC Board Member and
Pastor of Community Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Owosso, Michigan



Pastor & Mrs. Don Galardi

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

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The following messages are from the pastors who are Coordinators in the GTC mentoring program.

Pastor Manuel Cendales, Bogota:

The teaching of Dr. Galardi is like rain in an arid place. His message has already produced plenty of wonderful fruit! Obviously guided by the Holy Spirit, the erudition of Dr. Galardi, as well as his passion for the God of the Scriptures and His word, reawakened a hunger for God among the pastors who attended this event.

We hope that more men, like Dr. Galardi, will visit Colombia often, as such teaching will help stimulate the conscience of the pastors of my country to anchor their hearts to the Bible.

Through this effort, Lord willing, thousands of pastors will return to the Scriptures, to the God of the Bible, and preach Christ and His Gospel. I can testify that over 80% of the pastors in my country have insufficient, improper theological/academic education. There are pastors who have not even read the entire bible, nor understand the implication of relationships between books of the Bible and their doctrine. The GTC mentoring program (PEP) certainly will help the Latin American church in an effective way—to arrive to the glorious spirit of the Reformation, which is none other than the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastor Edison Florez, Santa Marta:

“We thank God for Dr. Galardi’s conferences in the city of Santa Marta and Cienaga. The pastors and the church leaders received the teaching with a tremendous interest. They received this conference as a delicious theological and biblical banquet. We admired Dr. Galardi’s erudition and his impassioned way to transmit his message.

We pray that God will continue to bless us with similar expositors of His Word, and will guide us as we labor with the follow up of teaching and mentoring of our brothers who are eager pastors to become better preachers to the glory of God. This coming week we are taking Dr. Galardi’s recorded conference to the city of Monteria. May God will give us wisdom to properly explain and expand his teaching amongst other pastors who, because of the great distance were not able to attend in Santa Marta.”

Pastor Jose Rios, Cartagena:

It was a great gift to have with us Dr. Galardi in Cartagena. We are also very thankful to GTC for its help by providing us with such a good teaching plus the materials and books. We are looking forward to do whatever is needed to help GTC to continue to have this pastors’ mentoring program which is invaluable for the expansion of the Kingdom of God in Cartagena.

