

GTC GOSPEL THROUGH COLOMBIA

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

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Luke 10: 2a

Beloved in Christ,

September 2012

After the completion of the teaching, *Marks of a Healthy Church*, to groups in remote cities and regions, Pastor Julio C. Benítez wrote an exciting follow-up. Here, in edited form, with permission from Dr. Benitez, is what he said: *Many pastors are participating in the GTC mentoring program. They expressed tremendous gratitude to GTC contributors and to the U.S. and national teachers who are laboring in many cities and regions in Colombia. The Reform has taken deep root in the regions of Cordoba. I was surprised to see how many pastors understand and believe the Doctrines of Grace, especially among the young who have university education. However, the Reformation in Colombia has caused them a great deal of persecution from “pastors” that are involved with the Prosperity Theology, miracle workers, and self appointed apostles and false prophets, who are actually adding dreams and visions to the plain message of the Scripture alone.*

After the the last Sunday service in Montería, I met with several pastors and leaders who begged us to send pastors to other towns in the Córdoba State. In these towns there are groups of Christians who are learning the doctrines of grace but do not have Reformed pastors to shepherd them. These places are too far for the pastor of Montería to regularly care for them. Please pray for this particular need. Perhaps there is a Reformed Spanish speaking pastor in the U.S. who may want to come and serve as a missionary for a while.

Pastor Benítez and the team of pastors who are serving in the mentoring program have recommended the title of the next two modules: History of the Reformation and TULIP (Total Depravity; Unconditional Election; Limited Effectual Atonement; Irresistible Grace and Perseverance/Preservation of the Saints). They indicated that modules, thus far, have been effectively taught on: Sola Scriptura, Proper Interpretation, Hermeneutics, Exegesis, Doctrine of God, Doctrine of Man, Expository Preaching, Marks of a Healthy Church and the SOLAS of the Reformation. After studying these modules, the pastors should not have difficulties understanding TULIP. TULIP, however, cannot be taught in a vacuum.

First of all, it is important to teach the history of the reformation beginning with the clear evidence of its principles in the Bible and the thought and teaching of the Reformers, such as Augustine, the Waldensians, the Huguenots, Hus, and many others, culminating with Luther, Melancthon, Knox, Calvin, Zwingli and other theologians who saw the terrible condition of the church and upheld the Five SOLAS as the five columns of the XVI Century Reformation. Pastors do not usually reject the Five SOLAS, except Sola Gratia when it is carefully and clearly taught. Their main problem with Grace is the Sovereignty of God. The teaching of TULIP is, hereby, not only helpful, but essential as the doctrine of the Sovereignty of God is profoundly presented. It is expected that they will see election, predestination and adoption by God as good news and central biblical truth.

GTC remains grateful to each of you for your prayers and, of course, your financial support. You can see, though, there is so much fruit—to the glory of God alone!

Would you like to receive the GTC letter by e-mail? This can be done via an undisclosed list—unattached to other e-mail addresses for privacy. If so, kindly send us your e-mail address to mimiacosta@aol.com.

Blessings in Our Lord, Jesus Christ,

Mimi Acosta, Secretary

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

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