

GTC GOSPEL THROUGH COLOMBIA

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

Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll and go, speak to the house of Israel.

Ez. 3:1b

April 2013

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus! He is risen, indeed!

Allow me, Dear Ones, to share comments written by last month's mission trip participants. Be delighted!

Dr. William Harrell, Pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, VA. Wrote: *I have known Noé and Mimi Acosta for a decade and my church has supported the work of Gospel Through Colombia all of that time. In recent years we have rejoiced to learn how the Lord has been improving things in Colombia where there has been a growing hunger for the Doctrines of Grace among believers. It was, therefore, with a sense of privilege and high expectation that my wife, Debi, and I accepted an invitation to be part of the recent Third Colombian National Convention. This was our first trip to Colombia and we were delighted to find that not the half had been told us of the good things the Lord has been doing there. The country, in general, and the Christians we met there all exceeded, by far, our high expectations.*

I spoke to pastors at the conference in Sylvania, where attendance was nearly twice what was expected. The attention of those pastors was riveting, their questions were sharp and incisive, and the fellowship was a sweet taste of heaven. Those earnest men of God—many of them young men, but mature in spirit—are the Lord's instruments for the spread of His gospel throughout and beyond Colombia.

In Medellín, I spoke at the conference where pastors and members of the local churches attended. I also spoke at the Sunday school class in one of the city churches and I preached at the morning service of another. In both places, we received a most warm welcome and enjoyed delightful fellowship with our brethren. The members of those churches are well-taught lovers of the whole counsel of God. Their hunger for the Word drew more out of me than I had prepared to preach or teach. These noble-minded brethren, whose lights are shining fruitfully where they live and serve, greatly rely on our prayers and deeply appreciate the ones who come to minister to them through the agency of Gospel Through Colombia.

Debi Harrell, Dr. Harrell's wife, and Anne McDowell, Dr. Bruce McDowell's wife, participated by presenting devotionals studies to the women in Fusa (short for Fusagasugá), a town not far from Sylvania.

Debi wrote: *My friend, Ann McDowell, and I addressed a group of women in this newly reforming church. The pastor and his congregation are coming to have a growing appreciation for the Reformed Faith. The women were hungry for the Word and lively in their expressions of faith and love. I led them through a brief teaching, titled: "How Do I Show You I Love You?" I wanted these fine women to know how deeply the Lord loves his elect children and how deeply Ann and I cared for them to come to them in their country that is so far from ours. The women listened attentively, asked questions and gave thoughtful answers to our questions. Our interpreter, Shawna Blair, did a wonderful job of translating our words and feelings. It was a moving time that passed so quickly. Afterward, many of the women came to me with tears of joy. Each of those lovely ladies thanked me, as did their pastor, for making the effort to be understood by them. I memorized and said repeatedly to them, "Mis hermanas en Cristo".*

Dr. Bruce McDowell, Pastor of Missions at Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, wrote: *I was greatly encouraged to see the large number of pastors, theological students, and lay persons who came out to hear hours of teaching on the doctrines of grace. Everyone was enthusiastic about what they were learning and the sweet fellowship we enjoyed together in the Lord, building one another up in the faith. I found those in attendance to be very attentive and touched by the power of the Word of God. In Medellín the conference was attended by more than expected, and the speakers were asked numerous challenging questions. Only the wise responses from Scripture satisfied those with doubts about God's sovereignty in our salvation. We all look forward to God's blessing on next year's Fourth National Reform Convention in Cali!*

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

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Eric Dunn, the GTC web master, wrote: *If you had asked me two years ago if I would like to dip my toe into the waters of the foreign mission field... Colombia would have been my last choice. Like most Americans I was still under the misguided impression that Colombia was under the dark cloud of drug cartels and violence. My experience in that beautiful country far exceeded what Noé had shared with me. He said, "Go, have a wonderful time and be among gracious, loving people who are proclaiming God's sovereign grace in one of the most peaceful countries." Noé was right. I never experienced any insecurity or danger. There was, really, a tremendous sense of peace and tranquility everywhere I went.*

I went at a time in my life when I was facing many great challenges. I found myself struggling to hold on to the sense of God's presence while questioning his plans for my life. Then God granted me a window of opportunity to do something on a foreign mission field. It IS a GOOD thing that God's plans are not our plans. Through God's gracious merciful provision of a loving wife, the gracious body of Christ, a very gifted counselor, and this magnificent experience in Colombia, I was loved out of the darkness and into a whole new light. In short, I am finally free to believe that God is with me and really does love me. I now view suffering as a gift from God. Nothing is more valuable than a deep, abiding relationship with Christ. I went to Colombia to serve as a media person, but God had many people there to serve me. Thankfully, He allowed me to go on the GTC mission field—and be part of the zeal there for the doctrines of grace.

Pastor Jose Luis Siancas, one of the Peruvian pastors who travelled over 40 hours to attend the Pastors' Convention in Colombia, wrote: *My heart kept increasingly burning with joy as I heard the exposition of the doctrine of grace and its application to preaching, evangelism, pastoral life, church life, worshipping and the exaltation of God in Christ. My life and the lives of the pastors who came from Peru were enriched and changed in many aspects not only from the pulpit but from many conversations in fellowship with so many pastors from Colombia that through suffering but in heroic manners transformed their congregations by returning to the orthodox biblical teaching of the doctrines of grace. I pray that by God's mercy, GTC and the Colombian brothers will help us in Peru to do the same.*

We at GTC thank God for these dear short term missionaries and teachers. We also thank God for your faithful contributions and prayers.

Rejoice in the Resurrected Lord Jesus,
Mimi Acosta



Debi & Pastor Harrell and Eric Dunn



Pastor Bruce and Anne McDowell