

GOSPEL THROUGH COLOMBIA

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

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus...preach the word. 2 Tim. 1a-2a

June 2014

Dear Friends of GTC,

Please see this short video of SRL Seminary in Medellin : <https://vimeo.com/97279744>

GTC unveiled two new outreach teaching mission projects. In 2013, *Seminario Reformado Latinoamericano* was launched, with its main campus in Medellin, and, in 2014, SRL began its extension in Perú, Bolivia and Ecuador by sending, from Colombia, thirteen experienced successful reformed pastors, who hold post graduate degrees, to serve as professors to those needed countries.

Reformed pastors from many cities in Colombia and long-time associated with GTC, came to Medellin for the first graduating class exercises. They encouraged the graduates, offering support and opportunities to preach in their congregations and receive mentoring. The day before graduation each pastor candidly shared with the students the successes and difficulties of their personal experiences at the pulpit, including the sufferings that may await them as they pursue pastoral ministry. A strong charge was given to them: *You know the Gospel. You know the doctrines of grace. Under penalty of sin, you are commanded by God to preach what the Bible says— not what you think that the Bible says or what you want the bible to say.*

Pastor Javier Gil, from Cali, stated that the most impressive thing he observed about the students was their sincere requesting of forgiveness from each other and pledging to be accountable to each other as they prepare to depart— after a school-year of fellowship and fraternity.

Under the leadership of Pastor Hector Romero (Medellin), Pastor Alexander Mercado (Barranquilla) and Pastor Javier Gil (Cali), thirteen pastors determined to follow the examples of pastors and professors from North America who come to teach in Colombia through GTC. Their goal: to respond to the yearnings of pastors from Perú, Bolivia and Ecuador who crave solid biblical education, but are not financially or physically able to attend SRL. We thank God for the missionary spirit He has given these thirteen pastors to serve in very hard places! To our delight, this team of pastors already established plans regarding what courses to teach, time for each to go, and the general organization to follow. We shall feature these pastors in future letters.

In the following GTC newsletters we will feature pastors in Colombia who have labored alongside GTC. This month we introduce Pastor Javier Gil from Cali. Pastor Gil wrote:

Greetings beloved family in Christ,



God gave my beautiful wife Gloria and me a son named Tomas, with the mandate to raise him for His glory. Formerly I was a businessman. Now I have a Master's degree in Theological Studies and serve as a pastor at Bethany Reformed Church in Cali. I am a faithful testimony of how the Lord chooses vile and wicked people for Himself. For this reason, I preach with passion the holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ that gives life to the dead.

In the 2003, after a missionary visit to Cali from Villavicencio, my pastor and I found no reformed or biblical churches in that city of about 2.5 million people. The “church” was corrupted by the terrible, false prosperity gospel and other gospels that are not “gospel” at all. As we presented the doctrines of grace we were highly rejected by clergy. Four people, however, by God’s power showed interest. For four years, we stayed in contact with these four via telephone, internet and occasional visits. The distance from Villavicencio to Cali is 14 hours.

I prayed during those four years that God would send me as a missionary to Cali where God had placed my heart. Finally, in July 2007, my church sent me to plant a church in Cali. On July 15, 2007, in a small \$30 dollar per month rented room, we had the first worship service with four brothers.

Now, seven years later, we are a congregation of over 140. We planted seven more churches and two others are in the church planting process. By God’s grace we are more than five hundred brothers and sisters praising and glorifying the Holy God in this region of Colombia. In February 2014, we hosted, in Cali, the Fourth GTC National Reformed Convention. It was actually an international convention. There were pastors from Perú, Bolivia, Ecuador, USA, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Colombia. Over 2,000 followed it by internet.

We work hard in training servants for the work of ministry. We have five Bible study centers with over 100 students who desire to teach sound doctrine and shepherd Christ's flock. God is also using me, from Cali, to be as a servant leader of over a dozen Colombian pastors that under the leadership of SRL and GTC, which will begin this year an intensive pastor training in Bolivia, Ecuador and Perú. Before this new initiative was originated, I had already planned two mission trips for this month of June, one to the region of Nariño and another to Cuenca, Ecuador. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will give me gospel power to present the doctrines of grace to those two thirsty groups of pastors.

Pray, also, that God will provide me with a vehicle in order to save time, as I follow His mandate to take the gospel to His people.

I thank God for GTC and the support it has provided over the years. We are especially grateful for how God provided for part of our financial needs through GTC in the early years, before we became a self-supported church.

God has been truly gracious to us! SDG!

P. Javier Gil, Gloria and Tomás.

Thank you for your prayers and support. God continues to open doors of opportunities. Please help us to walk through them for His glory and for the sake of His gospel.

Rejoice that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ,

Dr. Noé S. Acosta, GTC Executive Director & SRL Chancellor

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