

My Experience At The Bible Conference In Mexico

With Dr. Humberto Gomez On Nov. 28 – Dec. 2

By Missionary Manny Rodriguez

12-17-07 The Bible Conference was awesome! I don't even know where to begin describing the blessings we experienced during the conference.

There were about 120 preachers from all over the world there. Highly respected American Pastors such as Dr. D.A.Waite, Dr. Mickey Carter, Dr. Phil Stringer, Dr. Tom Gresham, Mike Keenan, and my Pastor Karl Baker were there. Dr. Stephen Zeinner, Director of Bearing Precious Seed Global, was there. It was a real treat to meet many key helpers and collaborators to Bro. Gomez in his work on the Spanish Bible such as Missionaries Joseph Martinez, Mike Lemma, Carlos Donate, Shane Rice, and many others missionaries and national pastors as well as those who were just laymen in the churches but nationals with Spanish as their first language. The majority of Preachers there were nationals from all over Mexico. Other Spanish-speaking countries were represented as well.

It should also be noted that the vast majority of these national preachers from all over the Spanish-speaking world use the RVG Spanish Bible!

The preaching was more than excellent. Bro. Gomez of course was the moderator of the meeting. What I really appreciated about Bro. Gomez is that he didn't do like most moderators do by only preaching the "big guns". But he preached the "little guys" as well. There was perfect liberty for every preacher as no one was bound to a time limit whether they were a "big preacher" or a "little preacher". In fact, as Bro. Gomez said, there really weren't any big or little preachers in this meeting. Just preachers that serve a big God!

Bro. Gomez kicked the meeting off with his nephew, Sammy Gomez, as the first speaker. To say Sammy is a fireball would be an understatement. Sammy preached with fire in his soul and poured out his entire body, soul, and spirit in the message. If anyone thinks I'm exaggerating or sensationalizing anything, I challenge them to inquire Dr. Waite and Bro. Gomez about getting DVDs of the meeting. (I believe some will be available soon as the meeting was recorded.) But Sammy pretty much set the tone of the entire meeting. The lively and spirited atmosphere never died down but only increased as the meeting advanced. Dr. Phil Stringer preached one of best messages on Missions I personally ever heard in my opinion. Dr. Mickey Carter preached an inspiring message entitled God Is Real in which he discussed many of the battles and struggles he endured throughout his many years in the ministry no doubt encouraging many of the younger preachers present in the audience. One

preacher who was a blessing was a national pastor from Guerrero, Mexico named Bro. Tomás Reynoso. He lives off of only \$200.00 of support a month! It was inspiring to hear the testimony of a man who knows what it is REALLY like to live by faith and serve God despite the lack of finances. My personal favorite message was from another national Pastor named Ricardo Vigañas who preached from the book of Job on the subject Dios Es Suficiente (God Is Sufficient). Bro. Mike Keenan preached a great message on Holiness and living a Godly life. My Pastor, Karl Baker, got to speak 3 times in the evening services including the closing message. Bro. Baker "let it rip" as they say in the US as he tried his best to stir up the next generation of preachers to get on fire for God in winning their people to the Lord. It was a treat for me to watch Bro. Baker, who is one of my heroes, preaching God's word in the demonstration of power and of the Spirit in Mexico. The same could be said for all the Preachers that spoke in the conference. Time and space would fail me to try and comment on all the good preaching we enjoyed both in Spanish and English in this conference. Not a dull moment transpired at all.

Everything was done bilingually. There were interpreters for both Spanish and English-speaking preachers. The interpreters were Carlos Donate, Ulises Velasquez, Humberto Jr., and Shane Rice. Each did an excellent job.

To me the highlight of the meeting was Dr. D.A.Waite's lessons on the Bible issue. It was highly emphasized that there be no criticizing of other men or ministries that do not use the RVG. Dr. Waite was the only man that Bro. Gomez asked to discuss the Bible issue from the pulpit considering that is his field of expertise. Dr. Waite is a soft spoken man who speaks a powerful message. It was a pleasure to watch this champion of the Bible at work. I personally believe there is not a greater linguistic expert in existence today in regards to the technical issues involving the underlying Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic words of the Bible than Dr. Waite. How foolish for some to criticize and question the credibility of the RVG when a man with the credentials such as Dr. Waite has been a right arm to Bro. Gomez in this work on the Spanish Bible! During the Conference, Dr. Waite dealt with the issues of the Bible with such compassion and vigilance that no one could deny the Spirit of God that bore witness to his presentation. I will never forget what I saw with my own eyes as I personally witnessed tears rolling down the face of Dr. Waite while he read Luke 24:32 particularly upon the words "Did not our heart burn within us...while he opened to us the scriptures?" I liked what Bro. Gomez said afterwards. He said Dr. Waite has taught us much concerning the Bible throughout the 50+ years of his ministry. But he taught us more through the tears in his eyes than any lecture on the word of God he has ever delivered. Amen! Most "scholars" are so cold, formalistic, and dead! How inspiring it was to see a true Biblical scholar of the first degree pour out his heart, manifesting his deep love for the word of God. Dr. Waite became one of my heroes during this conference.

After Dr. Waite's lessons on the Bible, the floor was open for questions. There was a lot of good discussion from the national preachers that had honest questions and concerns about the Spanish Bible and the issues surrounding it. Dr. Gomez and Dr. Waite did a great job answering questions. Many of Bro. Gomez's collaborators spoke up and offered their perspectives as well. It was a blessing to me to be in an atmosphere where people were sincerely and seriously inquiring about the word of God. You can sense the hunger to learn in the national pastors and laymen. Many testimonies were given from Spanish-speaking brethren all over the world who had made the decision to switch from the 1960, 1909, and even a couple from the 1865 to the RVG. It was interesting to hear the different perspectives and stories of how people came to the conclusions they came to.

In fact, it was really interesting to me that 3 missionaries that I met at the meeting were people who never even knew about Bro. Gomez and the RVG project until they read articles on the internet that criticized Bro. Gomez and his revision. All 3 of them now use the RVG and 2 of them became personally involved with the RVG project.

Unfortunately there were other collaborators such as Dr. Rex Cobb, Nelson Gimenez, and other preachers such as Dr. Jim Fellure and others that were not able to make it to the meeting. But we look forward to next year as Bro. Gomez plans on having the conference again in 2008.

There were many other memorable occasions during the conference. There was plenty of time to fellowship outside of the church services. I had a wonderful time fellowshiping with Dr. Waite and his wife, and Missionary Ulises Velasquez, Pastor Tom Gresham, Dr. Stephen Zeinner, my Pastor and his wife, as I helped to provide rides for some of the preachers back and forth to the meeting. I got to spend much time with Missionary to Peru, Shane Rice, as I took him across the border to the US to buy items that are hard for him to get in Peru. I treated him out for lunch and we had a wonderful time exchanging stories of God's goodness in our lives and ministries. I spent much time fellowshiping with Bro. Joseph Martinez and his son taking him back and forth across the border. I stayed up past midnight with Missionaries Lacy Wheeler and his wife discussing the Bible. I spent much time helping Bro. Humberto Gomez Jr. hauling van loads of Bibles, tracts, and other literature across the border. Thank the Lord the border patrol did not give us a hard time at all about bringing this material across the border. They didn't even stop us to check our vehicles, which was an answer to prayer. Bro. Ulises, my Pastor, and I got to go soul-winning in the market district and we preached on the street with some good responses.

I realized something as a result of this meeting that I had never really thought about before. I lot of the brethren who criticize Dr. Gomez and the RVG have

complained about the possibility of this work causing division amongst Hispanic Fundamentalism. But as was evidenced in this conference, nothing could be further from the truth. Probably the biggest confirmation in my heart that God is placing his stamp of approval upon the RVG Bible is the unity of the saints for a common cause that was demonstrated in this meeting. There was no particular camp that dominated this meeting. The "camp mentality" was nowhere to be found in this conference. Ministers from all kinds of different backgrounds were represented here. Many people who were once skeptical and critical of Bro. Gomez and his work were in this meeting with a different perspective as they now use the RVG. In fact, the audience was not exclusively of those who use the RVG. There was a good bit of ministers at the meeting who had in their hands the 1909 or 1960. Yet they were treated with nothing but respect and brotherly kindness. (Many of these have switched to the RVG during the course of the meeting and testified so publicly.) No preacher or ministry was criticized. Instead, we sang together, preached together, shouted together, prayed together, laughed together, fellowshiped together, and gave God the glory TOGETHER! The spirit of unity was undeniable. As Bro. Gomez noted toward the end of the meeting, the only thing missing in this meeting was for a fight to break out! But that never happened. The spirit of unity that surrounds the RVG Bible is probably the greatest confirmation in my heart that this Bible is indeed of the Lord!

This meeting is still bearing fruit even after it is over. A week after the conference, I spoke to a couple of Mexican Pastors that explained to me how the information given in this conference has confirmed in their hearts their decision to switch to the RVG. They now have a renewed zeal for the word of God like never before. I spoke to another Pastor in Guanajuato, Mexico that told how his preacher boys and Sunday school workers are all fired up about the word of God and that revival in his church has broke loose as a result! Praise the Lord! I predict more of the same in the near future.

I could go on and on about all the good things we experienced while in Mexico but time would fail me. It was surely a memorable occasion that I will never forget. I look forward to it again next year. Dear brother and sister in Christ, be sure to make your plans for next year's Conference. We'll keep you updated on my site www.4thesaviour.com as well as at Missionary Shane Rice's website www.reinavalera Gomez.com. The best is yet to come!