

2007 Latin America Summer Bible Conference Report

Key Verse: John 10:11

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“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

Thank God for blessing Latin America Summer Bible Conference with abundant word of God. Thank God for giving me a chance to attend this Conference and touching my heart with the word of God. Heavenly Father, now I want to remind what God has done during the conference. May God grant me the Holy Spirit to reveal your work. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

I. The Work of God in the Conference.

I arrived at Mexico City which is located on the top of the Mountain with an altitude, 2,600m from the sea level. The altitude of the Baekdoo Mountain is about 2,700m. Mexican shepherds picked us up and drove to a beautiful conference site called Metepec. We just arrived at the beginning of the opening message which was delivered by Dr. John in Romans 12:1-2. He said that we should know the will of God in order to offer ourselves to God. If we want to know the will of God, there are two prerequisites; first, do not conform the pattern of this world and second, be renewed by the Holy Spirit through repentance. Then, we can come to know the will of God and offer ourselves to God.

Next, shepherd Jorge Antonio from Dominican Republic delivered the first main message based on Luke 15:11-32. He said that when we leave God, we waste our time and money and become like the prodigal son. But when we turn from our sins and come to God, He is ready to accept us back as his sons and daughters with unconditional love. He shared his life testimony, saying that he left God and wasted his life with lust and debauchery but God waited for him until he came to God through Bible study. When he repented and turned to God, God welcomed him with full arm of love on the cross, saying, “Father, forgive Jorge, for he did not know what he was doing.”

Next day, Shepherd Ricardo Ramirez from Venezuela delivered a morning devotional message based on Mark 1:40-45, titled, “Jesus heals the leprosy.” He testified that Jesus heals anyone who come to him by faith. When Jesus heals he touches a person's heart with love. He shared that he also lived like a leper with sins; such as sex, drug, alcohol and physical sickness. But when he was invited to Bible Conference and heard a testimony of one girl whom he knew what kind of life she used to live on and how God changed her, his heart was moved. And he also asked Jesus, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” At that moment, he felt God's love, touching his wounded heart due to run away father.

After breakfast, there were three different groups of group Bible studies in Spanish, in English and in Korean. Shepherd Damen Londrigan from Chicago invited me to his group because I was not belonged to any group and it was a God's blessing. God blessed

him to prepare the Bible study material two time because he left his notes in Chicago and thus led the Bible study with inspiration from God after listening to wonderful messages.

Missionary Estaban Peru, a missionary from Mexico to Peru, delivered a powerful message based on John 8:1-12. He proclaimed that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Jesus has power to forgive which enables us to live in the love of God. He shared his life testimony. When he was 5-year-old, his father left the family. From young age, he lived in lust and maybe worse than his father. He felt miserable and sought help from self-help books which was of no use. When he asked help from psychologists, they said that fornication is normal. Justified, he went to prostitutes but was caught by police. His sinful life was exposed to the day light before everyone. He felt ashamed and useless. Through Bible study on this passage, he accepted Jesus' word, "Go and leave your life of sin." Jesus not only forgave his sins but also raised him to be a missionary to Peru. Amen.

Evening message was delivered by Shepherd Edward from Guatemala UBF based on John 10:1-18. He said that there are three things the good shepherd does. First, the good shepherd knows his sheep very personally. Secondly, the good shepherd lives an exemplary life of faith. Thirdly, the good shepherds fights against Satan for the sheep through prayer. He testified that Jesus was his good shepherd laying down his life for his sins and prayed to be a good shepherd for Guatemalan students.

After dinner, there were mission reports from Dominican Republic, Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica, Chile and Guetamala. We live in time and space, so I will share what I learned from these reports; otherwise, we have to spent many hours for the whole report. Through these reports I leaned that the work of God in South American work has two very interesting point. First, it is the work of the Holy Spirit. Second, it is the work of the discipleship ministry.

Saturday morning message was delivered by Shepherd Mateo from Bolivia UBF based on Mark 15:21-28 with the title, "The Faith of A Canaanite Woman." He said that Jesus also tests our faith because he loves and wants us to grow in faith. His faith was tested when his family was in disaster. After a father dies, they lost the house and had to live on the street. At first he complained to God, saying, "Why me?" But when he cried out to God like this woman, "Have mercy on me!", God restored his spirit and rescued his family from the homeless problem.

Missionary Isaiah Kang from Cuba delivered an evening message based Mark 6:30 with the title, "You give them something to eat." He said that he cannot preach the gospel to Cuban students because of communist system of the country, he prayed to give his five loaves and two fish by living an exemplary life of faith and inviting coworker his house.

After group Bible study, Missionary Gonzalo from Puerto Rico UBF delivered the third main message based on Luke 23:26-56. He declared that Jesus prayed on the cross for all sinners to be forgiven like him. From boyhood, he looked for physical pleasures which made him shameful and fearful. When he was invited to a Bible study, he gave his home

address, thinking that they would never find him. But his shepherd visited his house and invited him to Easter Bible Conference. Through Romans Bible study, God moved his heart to confess all his sins, knowing that Jesus forgave his sins on the cross. Finally he found great inner peace and could live a new life. Even though he had a high-paying and secure job in Mexico, he obeyed Jesus' world mission command and went to Puerto Rico as a missionary to preach the forgiveness of Jesus to Puerto Rican students.

After mission reports from Uruguay, from Columbia, from Iztacala Mexico, Ecuador and Argentina, dancing and drama performance were done. Especially, drama depicted what a shepherd should do in taking care of God's sheep. Our battle is a spiritual battle that we cannot win with our human wisdom but with God's help through prayer.

Missionary Don Kuper delivered a Sunday morning devotion message based on Matthew 6:9-13 with the title, "Jesus' prayer." He said that he does not deserve to deliver this message because he often slept through during prayer time. He continued that we like to pray for our own kingdom, for our own will and for our own glory but Jesus taught us to pray for God's kingdom, for God's will be done and for the glory of God. And then we also should pray for our needs and the forgiveness of our sins as we forgive others.

The Sunday message was delivered by Missionary Isidro sent from Mexico to El Salvador based on Matthew 13:44-52 with the title, "Parables of the kingdom of God." Jesus always planted the kingdom of God in the hearts of his disciples. But when Peter had his human dreams in him he could not follow Jesus nor take care of God's flock. When he had the love of Jesus in him, he was able to take care of God's sheep with the hope of the kingdom of God.

Missionary Abraham Hwang delivered closing message base on Isaiah 2:2-3. He said that the mountain of the Lord is the highest mountain, but it is the easiest mountain that everyone to climb through the Bible. Every nation will come to the mountain of the Lord and learn the way of God where there is the word of God. Through this passage, he encouraged missionaries and shepherd to study the word of God deeply until they can send missionaries not only to Latin America but to the whole world. Throughout the conference we prayed for pioneering three countries, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad Tobago, for doubling our ministry by 2010 and raising 100,000 missionaries by 2041.

II. The word of God I received through the Conference.

God has given me abundant word of God throughout the conference. God helped me to repent my sins by meditating the love of God in Christ. Among them I like to share one of them. After the conference, we had a Missionary Conference for one more day based on Joshua 17:14-18 with the title, "Pioneer even the forest." The passage was about the time after the people of Israel finished conquering the Promised Land and dividing the land. The descendants of Joseph complained to Joshua that they have two nations but only have one portion. Joshua did not rebuke them but encouraged them to pioneer even the forest. They continue to complain that the land was not enough for them and the Canaanites who live in the forest had iron chariots. But their real problem was not they

did lost pioneering spirit and faith in God Almighty. Joshua encouraged them saying, "You are numerous and very powerful. You will have not only one allotment but the forested hill country as well. Clear it, and its farthest limits will be yours; though the Canaanites have iron chariots and though they are strong, you can drive them out." Through this passage I repented my complaining heart that I do not have enough time to have more 1:1 Bible study nor for discipleship training for the coming sheep. Even if I fished, I could not follow them up. But the real problem was not that I have no time due to school study but lost faith in God's power. When I gave my five loaves and two fish, contacting one sheep a day, God sent many sheep to take care of. Through this passage, God renewed my faith to offer my five loaves and two fish. Even though I was sick due to diarrhea, when I wanted to contact one sheep and went to campus, God helped me to meet one sheep to study the word of God. May God bless my five loaves and two fish to feed the flocks of God and raise Liz, Andrei and Gift a Bible teachers. Amen.

ONE WORD: OFFER MY FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH BY FAITH