

Higgins' Herald

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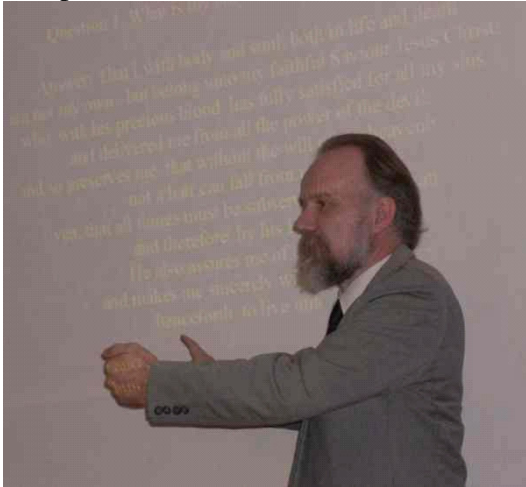
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Westminster Biblical Missions, Mexico

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Mexico City

Our work in Mexico really takes place on two fronts: among the P'urepecha people of Michoacán, commonly referred to as Tarascan territory, and at the *Seminario Teológico Juan Calvino* in Mexico City. Our Reformation-Day visits usually begin at the seminary in Mexico City, and then travel out to the far countryside of Tarascan-land. This year was no exception.



Bill is lecturing on the Heidelberg Catechism

Bill taught on the Heidelberg Catechism at the seminary's Reformation-Day Conference. It was very well-attended, and the participants expressed great appreciation for this encouragement in their faith.



Misael Custodio Currently serves as the Rector of the seminary, as well as Pastor of one of the Presbyterian churches in the city. In fact, all of the seminary faculty are also pastors, and members of the same presbytery. The steadfast faithfulness of these men, under adverse conditions, is a great encouragement to us as we visit, as well as to those students studying there for the ministry.



Misael Custodio labors hard in the Lord's Kingdom as the Rector of the seminary, as a Pastor of a church in the city, and as a coordinator and teacher for our work among the Tarascans.

Around the City

Walking around what is arguably the largest city in the world (30 million people in



A very needy city in many ways!

the greater Mexico City area!), we are struck by how great and needy a field this is for the Gospel. Though quite modern in many ways, there still remain many firmly-entrenched remnants of an old pagan culture creatively wedded to a well-established age-old Romanism.



Part of an offering altar for a departed loved-one during the Day of the Dead.

The *Dia De Los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) celebrations, customs, and observances underscore that fact. With its roots in an ancient pagan ancestor spirit-worship, it may have been dressed up for the modern day, but it still retains much of its old paganism. Departed spirits wander the earth, sharing meals and having parties with the living. While for some this may

simply be a memorial for departed loved-ones, for many the shrines and offerings are truly meant to summon back the spirits of the departed.



Some of the sidewalk art

The artwork involved in this celebration is truly impressive. Sidewalk “paintings” are created with colored flowers, saw-dust, and other items to rival in some cases the creations of the Rose Parade. Bill noticed the stark contrast between one of these impressive creations before, and then after, a hard soaking rain. It called to mind the truth that, “the leaves wither, and the flowers fade, but the Word of the Lord endures forever!”



One image that seemed very poignant was of a man pulling along a large board filled with skulls, with his back bent under the load. It bore a striking resemblance to John Bunyan's Pilgrim, groaning under the weight of the great burden of his own sin. And then as now, the only place to be free of this terrible burden is at the foot of the cross of Christ. This is why we labor to take the authentic Gospel to the people of Mexico.



"Who can help me with this great burden?"



Misael talks with Josué Martínez, another Mexico City Presbyterian pastor.

- Pray for the continuing work of the *Seminario Teológico Juan Calvino* in Mexico City, and around the country. This important work is perhaps the greatest hope for true Reformation to spread throughout Mexico.
- On the home front, Tammy has been struggling with some health issues related to her thyroid. We appreciate your prayers for her. Bill's business has also been struggling, with the down economy. Please pray for the Lord to provide for our physical needs.



Thank you for your prayers for our work among the Tarascans. We would ask that you continue to lift up the ministry of the Manifestors, as well as that of the seminary. Pray that the Lord would soften the hearts of many people in these villages, and in the city, giving them a deep hunger and thirst for His true Gospel. And pray for us as we continue to minister there.

Items for Prayer

- Prayer for Misael Custodio and his family. Misael has been struggling with some health issues of late, and his family has been sick as well. Pray that the Lord spreads His healing hand over this family, to raise them up in full health to better serve Him. Pray also for wisdom for Misael in how best to manage his schedule between the seminary, the church, and the work among the Tarascans.

The *Higgins' Herald* is published as often as we can get to it. The opinions expressed herein are those of the Editor-in-chief, and/or its Editorial staff, unless we didn't really mean to put it just that way. For any blessing you may receive from this publication, we give all glory to our Lord. For any blame, it lies with me. *sic biscuitus disintegrat, cum grano salis.*
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