



II Timothy 2:9

# The Gospel Catholic

*The Sole purpose of this publication is to promote God's message of Salvation through faith alone in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Additional free literature is available upon request.*

Volume 28

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## *Pendergrass Flea Market La Vaquita (The Little Cow)*

In the last edition of "*The Gospel Catholic*",

I had told you of our plan to start a booth at this flea market, located in Jefferson, GA about 35 miles north of Atlanta. My son and I went down to establish the ministry Labor Day weekend. We were amazed at the number of people who accepted our tracts.

In our first few weeks, we had a table placed right outside of the food court. Since then, we have acquired a booth on one of the "avenues" that has more space and allows more personal contact. We have been blessed to have volunteers from local churches help us and they work to have someone there for

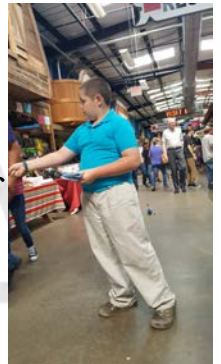
both Saturday and Sunday, 9am-6pm. Please pray for the helpers as they work tirelessly to pass tracts out. We have hit well over 10,000 tracts each month and anticipate much higher numbers in December.

**NEED** Please pray for some more helpers to help fill in the gaps. We are thankful for the wisdom and experience of Bro. and Sis. Mealor (pictured at



right), who have been passing out tracts for many years and have been helpful. Please pray for the continued funds needed to pay for the booth rental (\$110/weekend) and the tracts. We have ordered 25,000 for the Christmas season and will need to restock the supply when January comes. As Bro. Mealor has repeatedly

said, "You've got a gold mine of a mission field there". We are excited for this opportunity! Any gifts towards this should be labeled "Flea Market".



# MEXICO TRACT DEPOT



Last month, I was at a Bible conference in Southern Florida and I met a missionary named Bro. Wheeler. Bro. Wheeler works in central Mexico and one part of his ministry is to run a warehouse for distributing Bibles, tracts and literature to all 32 states in Mexico. Bro. Wheeler had a chance to review our Spanish tracts and has asked me to provide tracts for his next shipment from the U.S. to Mexico.

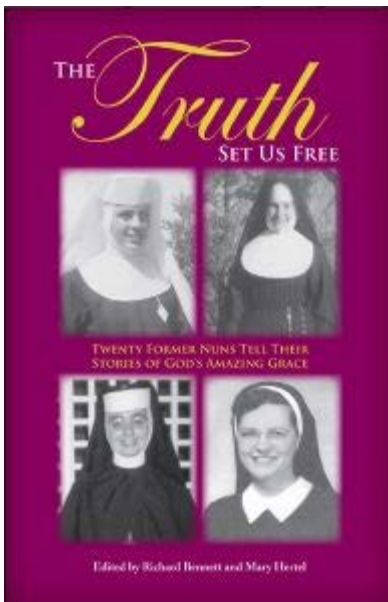
Bro. Wheeler has the supplies shipped to TN, loaded into a shipping container, and his brother drives the container to the border, where it's brought across and taken to his facility. Bro. Wheeler receives 2 shipping containers a year, distributing an average of nearly **200** pounds of literature a day! He is requesting three **PALETTES** of tracts from us for the next shipment which leaves in January. This would be several hundred thousand tracts, at least. I have agreed to pray for funds by the end of the year to send some tracts. Lord willing, I will be able to go visit this ministry in the next year or so. I'm excited to see it!



**PLAN** If you would like to contribute to this project, please mark gifts "Mexico tracts". Also, we are offering Ralph Fillicchia's two books for a suggested donation of \$10 as the "book offer" in this newsletter. Any additional funds will go towards this project. We are praying to



raise at least \$5,000 by the end of the year. This will let us send over 50,000 tracts. **We have had an anonymous donor who has promised to match every dollar given to this project by December 31st up to an additional \$5,000! So, if we can raise \$5,000, we will have \$10,000 to spend on tracts; please pray!** At the beginning of the year, I had stated that my goal was to print 200,000 tracts by the end of the year. At the time of this printing, we are currently at 163,000 tracts for 2017. We would love to surpass the goal!



# *The Unsearchable Ways of God*

## *By Mary Hartel*

### *(Part Three)*

*(Editor's note: In the previous edition, we saw how Mary was disconcerted at some of the inconsistencies she experienced as a nun. She took a leave of absence and ultimately was married. She and her husband had some real times of trials and difficulties as they started their young family and mourned her parents' deaths.)*

### *Unchangeable Truths*

We were invited to join Bible studies and prayer groups and Bernie and I became convicted of the authority of the Word of God. Bernie proposed lessons based on the Bible and the Nicene Creed for our confirmation group and they were approved by the director. We offered Bible-based curriculum to replace muddled thinking and fruitless discussions with God's unchangeable principles. When questions arose that we could not deal with, we found experts through our new Christian friends. One spoke on the authority of the Word of God and one addressed issues regarding the occult and Satanism. These were not priests or religious but lay persons, who seemed to be saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone and who knew and held to the truth of Scripture alone.

Although I cannot point to one specific date that I recognized and accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, the truth of His Word was taking root in my life by the summer of 1989. In June, abiding by the sound advice of the man who would be our first local church pastor, "wives be in subjection to your own husbands that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the behavior of their wives" (1 Peter 3:1), I asked Bernie's permission to attend worship service at a Bible based church. He said yes!

### *Conviction*

Our daughters were fifteen, thirteen and eleven at the time. I knew there would be questions and I worried about the affect on our family unity. We attended both the Catholic and Christian churches for most of the summer. Bernie tried the Christian church at my request for my birthday in July. His permission for me and agreement to attend with me were clear indications that God was involved in the circumstances of our lives.

Another dramatic example was a Sunday early in the summer when I suddenly could not receive communion at a Catholic mass. The stark realization that I did not believe that this could be the "real" body and blood as taught by the Catholic Church was a startling and profound faith conviction.

*(Editor's Note: Mary Hartel's testimony will be continued on the top of page 4)*

**(Editor's note; Mary Hartel's testimony, continued from page 3)** To have gone forward would have been hypocrisy. I realized that eating the body and blood according to the Bible meant much more, an identification with the Person of Jesus Christ. It did not make sense that He would be present in me at communion and not there the rest of the time. There was no magic or mystery. The words of the priest, said to have the power of transforming bread and wine, were a denial of the sufficiency of the work of the cross. Jesus said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Communion is a memorial of what He has accomplished. His command was to "*Do this in remembrance of Me*" (Luke 22:19).

The Mass prayers also stuck in my throat. Why was sacrifice still necessary? Did not the Scriptures say, "*He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them;*" He "*needeth not daily... to offer up sacrifice.... For this He did once for all when He offered up Himself*" (Hebrews 7:25, 27). The "unbloody sacrifice", as the Mass was defined, contradicted what both the Old and New Covenant taught, "*Withouth shedding of blood there is no forgiveness*" (Hebrews 9:22). He had "*offered one sacrifice for sins for all time*" and "*by the one offering has perfected those who are sanctified*" (Hebrews 10:12 and 14). The veil of the Holy of Holies has been torn in two. Man has access to the throne of God.



The revelation regarding communion initiated one of many lively spiritual discussions in our family during this time. This was completely out of the ordinary, yet I know now that the power of the Word of God was effecting a spiritual revolution in our lives regarding the Roman Catholic teaching concerning the Person and the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

By August we were no longer attending Mass, which we saw as a denial of the finished work of Calvary. We missed the liturgical rituals, weekly participation in communion, and familiar contacts. Neither extended family nor Catholic friends understood what we were doing; yet we were convicted. Much to our surprise, when we told the religious education director at our now former parish, he asked us to continue teaching our confirmation group through their second year because "good teachers were hard to find" and our class had been positively responsive.

At Christmas, we wrote a letter to our relatives and friends regarding our conversion. This initiated distress, anger and painful distancing. The significance of Matthew 19:29 which had been quoted so many times in relation to religious life suddenly became clear: "*And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake shall receive an hundredfold and shall inherit eternal life.*"

**(Editor's Note: Mary Hartel's testimony will be continued on the top of page 5)**

**(Editor's note; Mary Hartel's testimony, continued from page 4)** In my own inadequacy to put into words what it meant to be saved, I invited a Christian woman over to explain salvation to our daughters. It was our youngest, Allison's first exposure to the Gospel. Our oldest, Laura, showed me a journal entry she had made recording the day she believed on Jesus Christ as her Savior, more than a year earlier. She had a circle of Christian friends at school and was regularly studying the Bible. Our second daughter, Sarah, later shared that she had first heard the Gospel at a summer camp two years before. Although she believed what Jesus had done for her, there was only a little impact in her life because she had no training in the Word of God when camp was over.

### *Conversion*

God's intervention leading the five of us out of Roman Catholicism is nothing short of a miracle, the miracle of conversion in the life of every believer. I have since realized that the more than forty years I spent in the Catholic Church, faithfully attending rituals and going through extensive religious training, did not bring me to a knowledge of the Gospel. I was a sinner hopelessly lost without God's perfect provision. "*Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;... was buried, and... rose again the third day according to the scriptures*" (1 Corinthians 15:34). This and this alone saved me. Nothing can be added to the work of Jesus Christ nor can His work be re-enacted to bring forgiveness and grace. God prepared and drew us to Himself through His Word, the Bible, not through religious traditions and institutions.

### *Believer's Baptism*

Our family's continued spiritual transformation brought us to seek baptism by immersion in May of 1993. Knowing that baptism is not efficacious (it does not wash away sins and establish a relationship with God, as taught by Catholicism), we initially did not think it necessary to be baptized. The first Christian church we attended baptized infants in the context of the "covenant family relationship." We questioned this practice because it was not directed by Scripture. In 1993, Bernie and I met a pastor from North Carolina who showed us from Scripture that baptism was an important public witness and a matter of obedience. Again, the Lord was teaching us apart from a local church, establishing for us the authority of His Word. We were to "*examine the Scriptures daily,*" (Acts 17:11) using the Word of God as the authority in our lives. After presenting what we had learned to our daughters, we discovered that our oldest, Laura, who was at college in Pennsylvania, desired to be baptized and was praying about it since her mission trip the previous summer. Our younger daughters, Sarah and Allison, after study and prayer also sought baptism. We prepared as a family, writing our first testimonies for the ceremony. Our family agreed that baptism was an important public confirmation of our conversion and call by the Lord.

**(Editor's Note: Mary Hartel's testimony will be continued in the next edition. Her testimony is one of 20 in the book, "The Truth Set us Free".**



## *Dear Reader,*

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read this edition of “*The Gospel Catholic*”. We have been very pleased with the responses to the newsletter, especially since we began to run the testimony of Mary Hartel. She has been a huge help with the two converted nuns we’ve been helping to support. Let me remind you that the book with hers 19 other nuns’ testimonies is available.

**PERSONAL** Our family has been doing very well. The fall was an extremely busy time for me travelling. In a stretch of 6 weeks, I was gone on 7 trips to several different regions of the country. We had a good Annual Rally in El Paso, TX, and

will begin planning for the next one shortly. The church where Rachel’s Dad pastored is still looking for a pastor; I know they would appreciate your prayers as they look for the right man God has for them. We are grateful for the health of our children. Reuben, pictured at right, is developing a fun personality (as you can see) and it’s fun to see him learn.

**MINISTRY** As was mentioned on page 2, we are excited at the opportunity to supply Mexico with our tracts. I had been at a conference in Florida with many different missionaries and pastors in Latin American countries. The overwhelming majority of them were thrilled with our tracts, each asking for various amounts of tracts to be shipped to them. At one session, I was asked for 10,000 tracts by three different people. When Bro. Wheeler approached me, I expected the same kind of number. Instead, he was asking for **PALETTES**, which means hundreds of thousands of tracts. The last four years we’ve been able to pass the 100,000 mark for the first time in a long time and I was pleased with that figure. It seems that the Lord is wanting to stretch my faith this time.

We’ve sent 50,000 tracts at a time to Mexico, but never anything of this magnitude. Please pray that we will have \$5,000 to start with by January 1st.

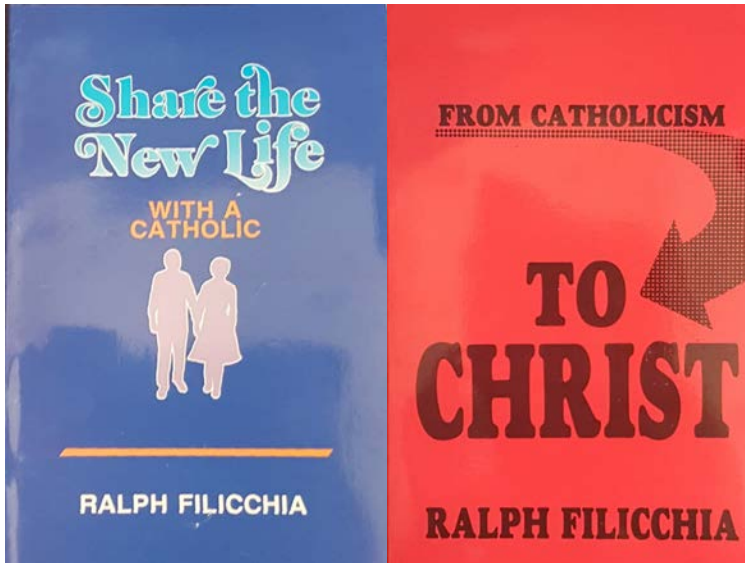
The Pendergrass flea market project has been a real learning process. We are thankful for this opportunity. As I was working on editing “*The Gospel Catholic*”, one of the helpers was texting me with info on tracts that they need resupplied.

**Continued on top of page 7**



**“Letter from the Editor, continued from page 6”** In the three months we’ve had the flea market, I’ve been approached on several occasions about other flea markets that could use a similar ministry. I don’t know where the Lord will take us with other locations, but we are looking forward to finding out.

**BOOK OFFER** A friend of ours, Dr. Bob Doom of Revival Literature, contacted me recently and asked if we would like to buy the two books written by Ralph Filicchia, *“Share the New Life With a Catholic”* and *“From Catholicism to Christ”*. At this



point, both books are out of print and I have bought Revival Literature’s whole stock. You can have your own set for the suggested donation of \$10. If you would like additional sets, *please specify*. I was excited to be able to get these books and when they are gone, they are gone. Any additional money sent in with the book offer, will go directly towards the tracts to Mexico project. I want to use each book offer to help supplement a different project each edition. Thank you for your support of the flea market last time. We have enough money to finish the year

with some money left over and we are thankful for the sacrifice of the Lord’s people on this ministry’s behalf.

**NEW OPPORTUNITIES** We have been in contact with several missionaries in the last months who have asked us about the possibility of printing our tracts on their respective mission fields. I have spoken to a pastor in Mexico, a missionary to Ecuador and one to Brazil. Lord willing, we will be able to oversee tract depots in other countries where the tracts are printed there. This will be an immense savings as shipping is very expensive and somewhat less than reliable. This may make it more challenging to keep track of production, but that doesn’t matter. God is keeping the records.

**PERSONAL PRAYER REQUESTS** Please pray for us as we travel. Lord willing, we will be making 2 trips in December and then several trips to the South in January-February. God has been good to us and protected us in our many miles. Also, 2018 promises to bring some longer distance trips. Rachel and I will be going to Israel in April and I’ve been asked to go to Mexico and Brazil next year. My prayer has been that I would have the wisdom and discretion to properly use our time and resources. We are excited for the many doors of opportunity God has allowed us in these last several months. *“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.” (1 Corinthians 16:9)* As we move into the New Year, let’s resolve to serve HIM more and more!



Yours for the Kingdom,

*Mark T. Reno, Director*

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# The Gospel of Grace

## God's Word, the Bible, Tells Us We Need To Be Saved

"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." *Matthew 18:11*

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." *Romans 3:23*

"Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God." *John 3:3*

## Even Religious Works Cannot Bring Salvation

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." *Titus 3:5*

"...not of works, lest any man should boast." *Ephesians 2:9*

"... all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." *Isaiah 64:6*

"This is the work of God that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent." *John 6:29*

## Jesus Christ – God Himself – Has Provided Everything For Our Salvation

"Who (Jesus) His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree..." *1 Peter 2:24*

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." *John 14:6*

## We Must Accept Christ To Be Saved

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*

"He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed...." *John 3:18*

"...and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out." *John 6:37*

## We Are Saved By Faith Alone

"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

Romans 3:28 "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ...for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. Galatians 2:16.

**"For by Grace are ye Saved through Faith"**

**HAVE YOU....**Been converted to the Lord Jesus Christ? Is He your personal and all-sufficient Savior? If not, you are invited to trust Him NOW. Then unite with a Christ-centered, Bible teaching, Missionary-minded, Separated, and Fundamental, New Testament Christian Church.

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