



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 34
No. 3
Summer 2023

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Tracts for Honduras!

We have prayerfully raised enough money to be able to order **500,000** tracts for shipment to Honduras! The project will cost over \$14,000. My home church gave the last \$5,000 to pay for them.

We are so grateful to be able to send these to a needy Central American country! The population of Honduras is over 10 million and we are excited to team with Beacon of Truth's printing ministry. They will be printing Bibles to go in the container. Please pray for them as they've experienced some delays. Pray for the safe passage, and the many souls who will receive the Bibles and tracts! "To **GOD** be the glory, great things **HE** hath done!"



We have been asked to supply this country with **500,000** tracts a year as the missionaries try to evangelize Honduras. We are thrilled be starting off with this shipment. Thank you for praying and giving to make this happen!

Page 1

Missions Trip to Brazil

I was able to take a missions trip to Brazil in August. I have a brother and 2 sisters who are missionaries in north Brazil in the state of Para. Brazil is a large country with over 214 million people. To put it in context, Brazil is the 5th largest country by land area (just behind the United States) and 6th largest in population. The state of Para where they work is more than 3 times the size of California. Most missionaries tend to work in the south of Brazil where the weather is nicer and the cities more developed.

The main purpose for my trip was to speak in a Missions Conference held in my sisters' home town of Salinas. The fellowship of churches had representatives from 16 different churches with some of the people travelling as far as 4-



5 hours by car, bus, or motorcycle. It was humbling to me to hear the reports of the ministries they work in; to see the personal sacrifices they make to get the Gospel out and then to try to teach them what I have come to learn about missions. To say I felt inadequate would be an understatement. The theme of the conference was: "My Life, My

Place, My Mission".



I was able to spend some time with my brother and see some of the ministry he has in the villages. He works in three villages, and with his family's help, is trying to start churches. It was a learning experience to get to see the obstacles that these missionaries face every day in trying to reach lost souls for Christ (we seldom even consider here). For example, when they had an evangelistic service outside of two homes, they

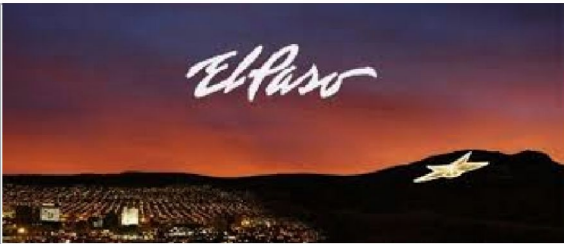
brought in the plastic chairs for people to sit on and strung 2 lights (seen at right) on an electrical cord between two trees. We in the



United States have become so lazy in our comfortable churches that are climate

controlled! God help us to be more fervent for Him in these perilous times of which Paul warned Timothy!



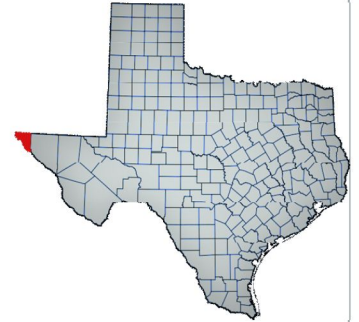


El Paso Mission Trip

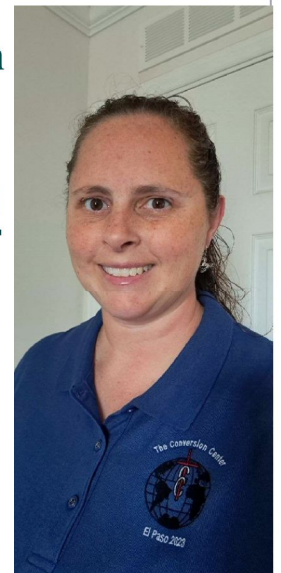
As we mail this to you, we are preparing for our mission trip to El Paso. The dates are October 2-7. This is the first such trip where we've opened it up to others to come with us. God has given me a burden for the area of El Paso, TX/Las Cruces, NM/ Juarez, Mexico. This area has roughly 2.5 million people, many of them Roman Catholic. Most people don't realize that El Paso is the 22nd largest city in our country and has more people than Washington, DC!

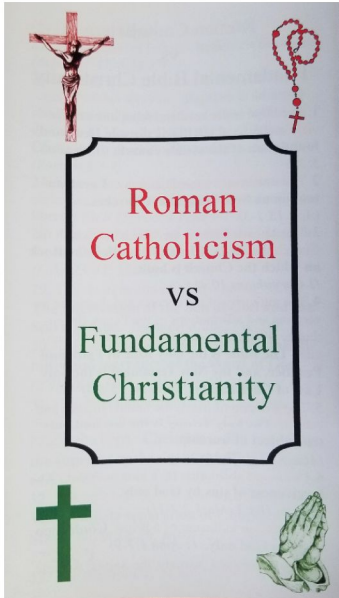


Please pray for safety for the 9 people who are going! Please pray for receptive hearts and for souls to be saved. We will be looking to help several churches and to canvas some neighborhoods with tracts and invitations to a tent meeting happening the week after we are there. I will be staying a couple extra days to speak in a church where I preach yearly.



We have had some t-shirts made for the workers on this trip as a thank you to them for taking time out of their lives and coming to help us in this endeavor. I have had extras made to offer to you, our readers! The stitching on the left side has our logo, "The Conversion Center", and "El Paso 2023". My wife is shown wearing hers, at right. If you would like to have one, please return the card enclosed with your size. (Be aware, they seem to run a little small according to size.) We have both mens and ladies. We are asking for a suggested donation of \$40 to help cover the costs of the shirts with the extra money going to help cover the cost of this trip and future missions trips. Please allow several weeks for your shirt (s) to be shipped. This is a limited time offer so please let us know which sizes you would like.





Roman Catholicism Vs. Fundamental Christianity

In previous editions, we have looked at various Roman Catholic teachings out of the RCC catechism and compared them with what the Bible teaches. We have so far covered ten topics. They are:

Who is the final authority?, Is salvation through the church?, Is salvation through good works?, Does the church forgive sins?, Who is the one, true church?, Prayers for the dead, Is the Pope the “Vicar of Christ”?, Does baptism save?, Is the Pope infallible?, and Do the Sacraments save?.

The Sin of Presumption

The dictionary calls presumption, the “act of taking for granted, assuming or supposing”. The Catholic encyclopedia (newadvent.org) defines presumption, *as the condition of a soul which, because of a badly regulated reliance on God's mercy and power, hopes for salvation without doing anything to deserve it, or for pardon of his sins without repenting of them.* If you are wondering what they think of repentance (a biblical word) and mentioned often with salvation, i.e. Mark 1:15, then you only need to look farther down and see one of the examples given or presumption. *“#2. a person might look to have his sins forgiven without adequate penance (this likewise, if it were based on a seriously entertained conviction, would seem to carry with it the taint of heresy)”. But, what does the catechism say?*

The Catechism Says

2092 There are two kinds of presumption. Either man presumes upon his own capacities, (hoping to be able to save himself without help from on high), or he presumes upon God's almighty power or his mercy (hoping to obtain his forgiveness without conversion and glory without merit).

The Bible Says

1 John 5:13 “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

John 3:16 “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 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

John 5:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

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“RCC Vs. Fundamental Christianity”, continued from page 4

John 10:27-28 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

John 6:40 “And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness (*see penance*) which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

Commentary

It is not presumptuous to believe what God said He would do for us when we take Him at His Word. Presumption comes when we think any amount of works we do before or after salvation merits us anything. God makes us a new creature when we are saved. We don't become a new creature or do penance to get saved. The old hymn, “Just as I Am” says, *“Just as I am without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou bidst me come to Thee, Oh, Lamb of God, I come, I come.”*

12. Infant Baptism

The Catechism Says

1250 Born with a fallen human nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of the new birth in Baptism to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God, to which all men are called.⁵⁰ The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant Baptism. the Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth.⁵¹

1252 The practice of infant Baptism is an immemorial tradition of the Church. There is explicit testimony to this practice from the second century on, and it is quite possible that, from the beginning of the apostolic preaching, when whole "households" received baptism, infants may also have been baptized.⁵³

The Bible Says

Acts 2:41 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

Acts 8:12 “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

Acts 8:36-38 “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”

Acts 9:17-18 “And Ananias went his way and entered into the house; and putting his

“RCC Vs. Fundamental Christianity”, continued on top of page 6

RCC Vs. Fundamental Christianity, continued from page 5

“...hands on him and said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”

Acts 10:47-48 “Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 18:8 “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

Commentary

EVERY time in Scripture where you see baptism, you see that the person or people being baptized are old enough to know what they are doing and have already believed. Space doesn't allow me to expound, but not all baptism in the Bible refers to water. You can look up the words baptize, baptism, baptized, etc. on your own time and see it for yourself. I had a catholic priest tell my Dad and me that the Bible allows for infant baptism. We asked him to show us where. He shuffled through some papers he had, insisting it was in there. It's not! The only place I've heard anyone suggest that it occurred in Scripture is in Acts 16 when the Philippian jailer and his household were saved and baptized. But, that is assuming that a man in a high position of power was young enough to have infant children. You could even say it's presumptuous. The fact that the Bible only references people who believed and were saved should make it clear that baptism is only for believers. Infant baptism confuses people on what salvation is and what it means to be a Christian.



Tract Projects Update

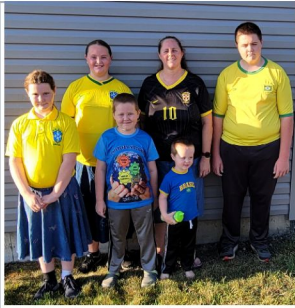
Our shipment of 100,000 plus tracts to Peru (seen at left) arrived on time and have all been distributed. We are praying to be able to send more when the next container ships out. There are many opportunities for the believers there to ship to other countries in the western areas of South America!

Our shipment to Guatemala (seen at right) is all distributed and we will be praying for \$15,000 to ship another 500,000 tracts there early next year. Please pray as we try to raise the funds for those



quickly because we also need to have an additional \$15,000 to print 500,000 tracts for Mexico, where missionary Lacy Wheeler is needing another container right away. The printing ministry we use for these projects is Beacon of Truth. Please pray for their workers and equipment. If you would like to give towards these projects, please label your gift, “Spanish tracts”. Thank you and God bless you!-MTR



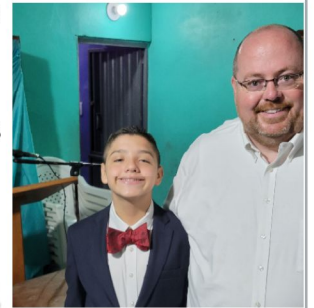


Dear Reader,

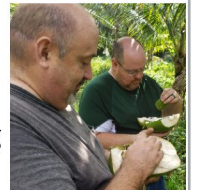
Thank you so much for taking the time to read this edition of, ***“The Gospel Catholic”***! I truly apologize for it being later in the year than normal and hope you will forgive me for it. Please allow me to update you briefly on a few things.



Travel I had an excellent month of July, being gone 24 days on 3 different trips to different parts of the country. I truly love getting out to see our brothers and sisters in Christ! I went to Brazil in August and was able to speak in a missions conference there. The church in Salinas, Para hosted the conference and there were representatives from 16 different churches with some people travelling as far as 5 hours to get there. I spoke on the theme: My Life, My Place, and My Mission. They had special shirts made for the event (seen on right). I also was able to spend time with my brother and his family and see the mission work they are doing. I have 2 sisters and a brother who serve in north Brazil as missionaries and so I was able to also speak to the people about the ministry of The Conversion Center. Our tract, “Mary’s Testimony” comes from the life of a lady who was saved in that part of Brazil. I was able to take some bundles of tracts and leave them with the leaders of the churches. I pray that we can help them more in the future.



On a “touristy” note, I was able to see a tarantula (they don’t move around a lot and aren’t aggressive) and eat armadillo. Pictures of both are on page 2. It wasn’t the purpose of the trip, but it was enjoyable to see how different the crops and animal life is there.



Upon my return, I was hospitalized with issues from a large kidney stone. Thank the Lord, the procedure went well and I am working at getting back into a routine and trying to catch up on office work. Thank you for your prayers for my safety and strength. We are exceedingly grateful that this did not happen in Brazil as I was hours away from a hospital that may have been able to treat me. God is good!

We appreciate your prayers and support for this ministry! God is allowing us to explore new frontiers for our literature and to impact countries we’ve never had a chance to help in the over 60 years plus of this ministry. Offerings for the projects have been great; please don’t stop praying. I would ask that you pray for the offerings for the general fund that cover things like printing expenses, utilities, postage, etc. They have been down and it limits some of the projects we’d like to do here in the states. I also want to pursue getting ALL of our tracts translated into the languages we currently have: Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and French. That will require additional funding.

PERSONAL The family is doing well. The kids are back in school. Stephen is in 10th grade, Katie in 7th, Patricia in 5th, Reuben in 2nd, and Benjamin is trying to keep busy when his siblings are doing their work. We are thankful for your prayers and support. God bless!

Yours for the Kingdom,

Mark T. Reno, Director

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The Gospel Catholic

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*

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 Repent From Sin and Accept Christ To Be Saved

"... for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." *Matthew 9:13*

"... the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." *Matthew 1:15*

"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*

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

We Are Saved By Grace Through 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. Today is the day of salvation. Then unite with a Christ-centered, Bible teaching, Missionary-minded, Separated, and Fundamental, New Testament Christian Church.

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HAVE YOU....asked your church to include The Conversion Center, Inc. in its missionary program?

HAVE YOU....remembered The Conversion Center, Inc. in your will?

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