

# REDEEMING THE TIME

*"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).*

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 2



SPRING 2020

## ICCC EVANGELISTIC SERVICE

Plaza de Armas – Puerto Montt, Chile – Sunday, January 26, 2020

See report on page 4



*"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



Chilean Pastor Andrés Durán delivered a powerful gospel message. Many local residents and visitors to Puerto Montt were able to hear the preaching of the Word of God and testimonies from various men from around the world.

## "...Whom I love in the truth"

BY NADIR CARREÑO

*Message Delivered at the  
20th World Congress of the  
International Council of Christian Churches,  
January 27, 2020, Puerto Montt, Chile*

2 John 2; 3 John 3-4; Ephesians 4:14-16


In his Epistles, the Apostle John writes to his brothers in Christ, with the passion and emphasis that characterized him, about how much he loved them. He expressed a special love to "the elect lady," and to Gaius. He loved all the brothers, but especially he loved those two, because they "walked in the truth." That is to say that they not only professed it theoretically, but that they lived and behaved permanently as faith in Christ required it. For them, Christianity was not only their religion, but the deep motivation of their lives. The verification of this filled the Apostle with joy.

These two features characterize the ICCC: sincere fraternal love, that joins us together closely with Christ, and a fervent defense of "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

In relation to the elect lady and her children, John says that they were "walking in truth," which makes them widely known, respected and loved in every church. May the same thing happen to us,

*Continued on page 10*

# REFORMATION



## *Beginnings*

### PART X

## Martin Luther's Captivity

BY MARK W. EVANS

**O**n April 26, 1521, Martin Luther left the city of Worms. He had stood before ecclesiastical and civil opponents of the highest order, with his life in jeopardy, and refused to recant the truths revealed in the sacred Scriptures. He found his conscience clear and his Savior's grace sufficient. The Lord's servant passed through the gates of Worms alive. He said: "The devil himself guarded the pope's citadel; but Christ has made a wide breach in it, and Satan was constrained to confess that the Lord is mightier than he."<sup>1</sup>

Luther's refusal to recant stunned the Diet, but the impact was even greater upon the multitudes which learned of his courageous stand for Biblical truth. The ancient, false claims of Rome crumbled before God's Word. Church historian J.H. Merle D'Aubigne wrote: "The battle that

had been fought at Worms resounded far and wide, and at its noise which spread through all Christendom, from the region of the North to the mountains of Switzerland, and the towns of England, France, and Italy, many eagerly grasped the powerful weapons of the Word of God."<sup>2</sup>

Pope Leo X's formal excommunication of Martin Luther received much needed support through an edict signed and sealed by the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Charles V. While the pope's anathema had fallen to the ground, Rome believed an emperor's edict would eliminate the threat of a humble monk declaring God's Word.

This document, actually composed by Rome's representative, Alexander, utilized the papacy's fierce weapon of slander, much like our modern politicians and media employ today. If the message cannot be destroyed, then destroy the messenger.

The edict characterized Luther as a monster of iniquity. "He has shamefully polluted the indestructible law of holy matrimony; he has endeavored to excite the laity to dye their hands in the blood of the clergy; and, setting at nought all authority, has incessantly urged the people to revolt, schism, war, murder, robbery, incendiarism, and to the utter ruin of the Christian faith.... In a word, not to mention his many other evil practices, this man, who is in truth not a man, but Satan himself under the form of a man and dressed in a monk's frock, has collected into one stinking slough all the vilest heresies of past times, and has added to them new ones of his own...."<sup>3</sup> In other words, this voice of truth opposing religious and civil tyranny must be eliminated.

The Reformer's safe conduct, issued by Frederick, the Elector of Saxony, protected the monk for a brief period. When it expired, his enemies would have authority to seize their adversary. Luther's friends were filled with grief and despair. Their cham-

**Germany and other countries learned a valuable lesson: the Reformation was not dependent upon one man. The Bible defended itself and wrought eternal victory. It was more than sufficient to expose and eliminate false teaching and tyranny over soul and body. Martin Luther had thundered the teachings of God's Word. He was willing to withstand apostasy to the death. The Holy Spirit had opened many hearts and the flame of truth could not be quenched.**





Wartburg Castle sits atop a precipice overlooking the city of Eisenach, Germany.

pion of truth would fall, as had countless others, to Rome's lust for blood. Yet the Lord's servant escaped the murderous snare. During the final part of his journey home, five heavily armed masked men kidnapped the Reformer, took him to a room in the castle of Wartburg, gave him the clothing and identity of a knight, and began his friendly incarceration that lasted for ten months. Only a few knew the truth.

Luther's disappearance produced unexpected results. Germany and other countries were shocked at Rome's sinister intentions. Rumors abounded and false reports emerged of the monk's death. His followers and sympathizers were enraged. Loyal supporters of the papacy suddenly faced fierce opposition. Merle D'Aubigne wrote: "Nothing could equal the alarm of the partisans of Rome. The priests and monks, who had not been able to conceal their exultation, thinking themselves secure of victory because one man was dead, and who had raised their heads with an insulting air of triumph, would now have fled far from the threatening anger of the people. These men, who, while Luther was free, had given the rein to their fury, trembled now that he was a captive."<sup>4</sup>

The historian also stated: "In no place was there such a commotion as in Worms itself; resolute murmurs were heard among both people and princes. Ulrich Hutten and Hermann Busch filled the country with their

plaintive strains and songs of battle. Charles V and the nuncios [of Rome] were publicly accused. The nation took up the cause of the poor monk, who, by the strength of his faith, had become their leader."<sup>5</sup>

Germany and other countries learned a valuable lesson: the Reformation was not dependent upon one man. The Bible defended itself and wrought eternal victory. It was more than sufficient to expose and eliminate false teaching and tyranny over soul and body. Martin Luther had thundered the teachings of God's Word. He was willing to withstand apostasy to the death. The Holy Spirit had opened many hearts and the flame of truth could not be quenched. Jesus Christ taught, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31,32).

Luther's removal to the Wartburg Castle was necessary for the prospering of the Reformation. He needed time to quietly meditate and search the Scriptures. It was during his captivity that he translated the New Testament into the German language. He would later complete the translation of the Old Testament. While his written teachings from God's Word had permeated nations, the Bible itself was desperately needed. It would soon become apparent that the Reformation was not the work of one man. It was a work of God that could not be

defeated. It broke the chains of religious and civil tyranny and set countless souls free from the bondage and curse of sin. Other reformers would arise with burning hearts to proclaim God's Word.

J.H. Merle D'Aubigne wrote of Luther: "He was transported suddenly far from the stage on which the great revolution of the sixteenth century was taking place; the truth, that for four years he had so powerfully proclaimed, continued in his absence to act upon Christendom; and the work, of which he was but the feeble instrument, henceforward bore the seal not of man, but of God Himself."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>J.H. Merle D'Aubigne, *The Life and Times of Martin Luther* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1978), 450.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, 450.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*, 454.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, 460.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*, 459.



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## REDEEMING THE TIME

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# ***The Gospel of Jesus Christ Is the Solution!***

BY BRAD K. GSELL

**A**s plans were being made for the 20th World Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC), the Rev. Hal Ricker, missionary to Guatemala and a vice president of the ICCC, made the suggestion that an outdoor gospel service be held. The idea was to present the gospel of Christ to the residents of Puerto Montt, and to visitors to the city. Rev. Ricker, the Rev. Nadir Carreño and the Rev. Juan Farias, with the help of many others, planned the service, complete with orchestra, choir and a number of speakers.

Puerto Montt is the capital city of the Los Lagos Region of Chile. In God's providence, the city officials offered us use of the beautiful city plaza, the Plaza de Armas, free of charge. They also included a raised pavilion,

complete with amplification system, for the speakers and musicians.

Many people walking by stopped to listen. A Holland America cruise ship had docked across from the Plaza, for passengers to enjoy the city for the day.

As we were about to begin the service, the Honorable Haydeé Carrasco, chief of the cabinet of Puerto Montt arrived. We welcomed her to the service and escorted her to a seat in the front row.

The Lord was quite merciful. Chile has been going through a time of considerable political unrest. A number of previous international meetings scheduled to be held in Chile had to be cancelled due to this. Many buildings in this otherwise beautiful city were marred with graffiti calling for revolution and overthrow of the government. Some were freshly painted, only to have new graffiti sprayed



**Rev. Dan Greenfield, Executive Secretary of the American Council of Christian Churches, gives testimony of his faith in Jesus Christ.**





over top of the old. The Communist hammer and sickle was seen painted on several buildings. One building near the Plaza had a large painted slogan, which read: “The Revolution is the Solution!!”

The message of the ICCC, in stark contrast, was that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only solution to man’s problems!

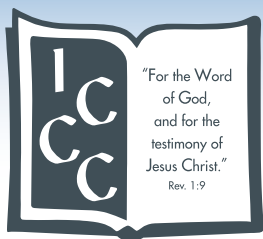
While the service was taking place, vans pulled up beside the crowd. It turned out that they were anti-government protesters. Several from the ICCC spoke with them, and they agreed to wait till 11:30 a.m. before hoisting their banners and causing disruption. They kept their word, and the service was over by that time.

Pray that this Gospel witness will continue to speak to the hearts of those who were there. “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing where-to I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

**Above:** ICCC President Brad Gsell welcomes the Honorable Haydeé Carrasco, chief of the cabinet of Puerto Montt, capital city of the Los Lagos Region of Chile, to the outdoor service. **Near Right:** Rev. Juan Luis Guerra, pastor of the Genezaret Fundamental Biblical Presbyterian Church of Puerto Montt, sings a solo. **Far Right:** Rev. Kim Sin Yap of Singapore gives testimony of his faith in Christ. **Bottom Left:** The growing downtown area of Puerto Montt, on the waterfront, across from the Plaza de Armas. **Bottom Right:** Some of the ladies enjoy fellowship following the service.







## 20TH WORLD CONGRESS International Council of Christian Churches Puerto Montt, Chile • January 22-29, 2020

# THE PUERTO MONTT DECLARATION

**T**he International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC), meeting in its 20th World Congress, January 22-29, 2020, in Puerto Montt, Chile, declares its continued allegiance and fidelity to the inspired, infallible and inerrant Scriptures, which are the very Word of God. It is the sole focus and purpose of the ICCC and its churches, in all that they do, to stand firmly “for the Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:9). This has been the Council’s theme since its inception in 1948, and it appears on our logo.

### The True Gospel

We declare also that the true Gospel of Jesus Christ must be guarded against all corruption, dilution or change. The Bible teaches that God so loved guilty sinners — who were unable to save themselves — and that He sent His only begotten Son into the world to die on the cross, rise victorious from the grave, save men from their sin, and to give them the free gift of eternal life. This salvation is only by the righteousness of Christ. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

There are many attempts today to include social justice, climate change, renewable energy development, universal health care, a new world economic order, and so forth, as part of the Gospel. The World

Council of Churches (WCC), in all of its apostasy, is a prime promoter of such teaching. We reject this as a continuing attempt by Satan to dilute and pervert the true message of the Good News of Jesus Christ which is clearly presented to us in the Scriptures. Even such earthly matters as are Scriptural can only come by the sovereign hand of God, and as a *result* of the work of the Gospel in the hearts of those who have been saved by His grace.

When men are born again by the power of God’s Spirit, and only then, can true social justice be seen. The Gospel changes men’s hearts from selfishness to compassion, stealing to giving, murder to protecting life, and loving others more than themselves. This is the only way a strong, free, safe and just society can be built.

We urge believers everywhere to actively witness for Christ, presenting only the true Biblical Gospel, in obedience to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

### The Exclusivity of the True Gospel

Isaiah 8:20 tells us: “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Therefore, we reject the syncretism and universalism increasingly displayed by the WCC, and even some evangelical churches. The continual attempts to break down and dismiss the crucial doctrinal errors of the Roman Catholic Church, which led to the Protestant

Reformation in the 16th century, and even praising and working with other religions, cannot be countenanced in any way.

The Scriptures teach us: “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?” (2 Corinthians 6:14-16).

These commands to be separate are likewise clearly violated by many in modern evangelicalism, including the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA). The WEA has in recent years produced joint statements with the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church,<sup>1</sup> and has sent its leaders to participate in meetings with the Pope in Rome.<sup>2</sup>

The WCC and the Roman Catholic Church frequently send letters of encouragement to leaders of other religions, commending their false beliefs as somehow being the same as what Christians believe.<sup>3</sup> This is a dangerous disregard for the souls of the lost. While God commands “all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30), the WCC and others praise men in their sin.

True believers, despite strenuous criticism, do not hold the view that there is good in all religions, or that each religion is just a different path to God. God Himself declares decisively: “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I

am God, and there is none else” (Isaiah 45:22). Christ tells us in John 14:6: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” And, the Apostle Peter proclaimed: “Neither is there salvation in any other [than Christ]: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

### The True Gospel in the Face of Increasing Evil in Society

In our present day, there is much opposition to the teachings of the Word of God, and much pressure is placed upon Bible-believing Christians and churches to compromise their beliefs and practices, in order to conform to the so-called norms of our godless society.

A case in point is the LGBTQ agenda being promoted vigorously all over the world. We declare our love for the souls of all sinners, but refuse to call good that which God declares to be evil (Romans 1:24-27). This applies as well to fornication, adultery, easy divorce, the promotion of gender

confusion, and so forth. That God created all men “male and female” (Genesis 1:27), and ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman (Matthew 19:4-6) can never be compromised by the true child of God. What God declares to be sin, we must also declare to be sin — in conformance with God’s Holy Word. To conform our view of sin to the whims of a wicked society is a direct threat to the true Gospel of Christ.

The ICCC declares that all true children of God everywhere must humbly, but firmly, join Peter and the other apostles in declaring: “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). Proverbs 14:12 tells us: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Thus, we must steadfastly remain on the “narrow way,” which leads to life eternal.

### “Be Thou Faithful Unto Death”

The ICCC calls on Bible-believing Christians and churches everywhere to be faithful to the Lord, not allowing the vain philosophies and evil devices

of our world to distract from doing that which is right. Philippians 3:14 tells us: “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Our eyes must forever be focused on what the Word of God commands us to do as we journey as “strangers and pilgrims” on our path to eternal glory.

We cannot just be doctrinally correct. The work of God’s Spirit must be ever present and evident in our lives. The ICCC calls on Bible-believing Christians and churches everywhere to:

1. Strive, with God’s help, to be holy. “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15-16). “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).
2. Give your life in service to Christ: “I beseech you therefore, brethren,

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## PUERTO MONTE DECLARATION

*Continued from page 7*

by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1).

3. Study the Word of God: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).
4. Meditate on the Word of God: “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (Joshua 1:8).
5. Spread the Gospel of Christ: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20).
6. Be unswerving in your stand for the Lord: “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:14-17).
7. Be prepared to face persecution: “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2:3).
8. Expose evil: “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful



for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

9. Practice a true Biblical ecumenism, such as is found in the ICCC: “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12). The Apostle John should be our example, when he said: “whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; For the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever” (2 John 1-2).

Our Lord promises all those who follow Him: “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried.... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

<sup>1</sup>e.g.: In May 2016, the WEA and WCC met to discuss ways they could have closer cooperation. Bishop Efraim Tendaro, then CEO/General Secretary of the WEA, stated that this was a “thought-through move towards more cooperation of Christians on a global scale. We owe it to our constituency that we talk with the

leadership of global Christian bodies and seek better understanding and closer cooperation wherever possible.”

At a speech at World Council of Churches headquarters, June 28, 2011, attended by WCC, Roman Catholic and WEA leaders, then WEA CEO/General Secretary Geoff Tunnicliffe stated from the lectern: “It has been an honour and a privilege to work with our colleagues in the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches ... and we hope that this is just the beginning of many other such collaborative efforts. We know that our witness is made stronger and more truthful to the extent that we work together for the glory of God’s reign.” The WEA has only worked more closely with these apostate groups since that time.

<sup>2</sup>e.g.: Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher, then Chairman of the WEA Theological Commission, attended the Vatican Synod of Bishops in October 2012, and was pictured with Pope Benedict XVI. He also participated in the inauguration of Pope Francis in March 2013, and was pictured with him. The WEA has only worked more closely with the apostate Roman Catholic Church since that time.

<sup>3</sup>e.g.: On October 28, 2019, WCC General Secretary Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit wrote a letter to Hindu leaders, stating in part: “The World Council of Churches values the long-standing relationship that we enjoy with our Hindu partners. We look forward to translating this relationship into interreligious solidarity in service of a wounded humanity and a broken earth. I am confident that together we can make a difference and look forward to continued and closer collaboration between the WCC and our Hindu partners. During this festive season as you light Diwali lamps both in your homes as well as your hearts, may light and love flow into your lives and the lives of your loved ones, may grace and generosity abound in your communities and may you all be blessed. Happy Diwali.”

Tveit also wrote to Muslim leaders on June 12, 2018: “It gives me great joy in sending you, the worldwide Muslim community, my greetings of peace and good will as you celebrate the Feast of Eid Al Fitr. Even as you end the holy month of Ramadan I very much hope that the past month has been both meaningful and blessed. Festivals with their dimension of gratitude to God have the potential to draw us closer to God and to those around us with a fresh and firmer awareness of God’s grace and generosity.”

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resolutions passed by the  
ICCC 20th World Congress**





USA



Panel Discussion: USA



ICCC Media Commission Leaders

Bolivia

Chile



The beautiful double lectern was made specifically for the ICCC World Congress by a craftsman in one of the Chilean ICCC churches. The Congress Theme, "God is love," in Spanish, is carved on the front.



USA

Guatemala



Liberia

## "... WHOM I LOVE IN THE TRUTH"

*Continued from page 1*

because of our unwavering faithfulness to our blessed and loving Savior!

In his Second Epistle, verse 1, John says of the believers that they are all those who "have known the truth," and later that truth "dwelleth in us." All the saved share the truth, the truth that is our life, the divine truth that the Holy Spirit has implanted into our heart, and that by being divine is indestructible.

John wishes grace to the faithful (the unmerited favor of God, on which any good we enjoy depends), mercy (the compassion of God for us, those who do not deserve it) and peace (the calm as the result of having a right relation with the Almighty, because of the shed blood of our Savior). These are the abundant blessings that those who remain faithful in the truth enjoy from God and his Son Jesus Christ, and that cannot be enjoyed by those who have apostatized from the faith.

Our faithfulness to the truth requires us to love each other, as God has loved us in Christ.

In his Third Epistle, John addresses the disciple Gaius: "unto the well-beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth [meaning sincerely]." This great affection was owing to his holy behavior, motivated by his devotion to the Lord and his sincere adherence to the gospel.

I hope that we — all the members of the ICCC — could be loved this way, and for the same reasons that the Apostle loved Gaius so much! He held a correct Biblical doctrine, but he also lived as a new creature, with a way of thinking and acting, with plans and purposes in life, with priorities and values that were no longer from the world. As this new creature gives us so much satisfaction and joy, this should be an additional encouragement to the Lord's command to evangelize the whole world.

The Word of God, which is given by inspiration, and therefore contains no errors, is the Only Rule of Faith and Practice, as the ICCC maintains. Our unwavering and unswerving adherence to it joins us together to our Heavenly Father, to our Savior, and to the work of the Holy Spirit that is living in us. This is an encouragement to all of us who are part of the ICCC to intensely love our God and Savior, so as to honor and comply with His commands, and to be faithful to His Word. Also, to have brotherly love, and to ceaselessly preach the glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of those who remain in their sins and the darkness of this world. In addition, the Word urges us to spiritual growth in the precious faith that our good God has given us, so as to fervently defend it.

The Apostle Paul refers to this in Ephesians 4:14-16. Between verses 11-13 it is said that He gave various kinds of workers, with different ministries according to their gifts, "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

In its Statement of Faith, the ICCC declares and maintains the fundamental Biblical doctrines that constitute our unity of the faith. False ecumenicism cannot do the same, because its aim is to visibly unify all, no matter what beliefs people have. This prevents having unity in any faith.

God worked in His faithful servants to found the ICCC. He commended to the ICCC the efficient support for individual Christians, as well as to all faithful churches, in order to keep their spiritual unification through faith: to defend it and disseminate that faith throughout the world, in addition to coordinating material assistance that many times is required because of the world's devastating disasters.

We are exhorted in Ephesians 4:14: "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Many Christians remain in their spiritual early childhood and, at times, for their entire Christian race. They do not reach spiritual maturity. Therefore, they become an obstacle to achieving the goal, which is the entire spiritual unity of the body of Christ, that is the church.

This spiritual early childhood is owing to a weak faith and a limited knowledge of Christ in the theoretical and experimental ways. Therefore, it produces such carnal manifestations as envy, strife and divisions, which makes it impossible to discern between the good and the evil. This occurred in Corinth, causing the Apostle Paul to say: "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

Hebrews 5:12-14 refers as well to this very thing: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Time after time, such believers must be instructed in the first principles of faith, the simplest and elemental things — known as "milk." This is against the strong meat, that is the spiritual discernment between good





and evil; between the Spirit of the Lord and the unclean spirit, or the simple human spirit.

Strong meat includes knowing what our election is, the eternal security of the regenerate through obedience, as well as the holiness and faith which are found in them by virtue of the special grace of God, but that must be practiced by them. Also, the knowledge, appreciation and appropriation of the personality and the methods that God uses with His creatures, and especially with His own elect, and so forth. Spiritual children are not able to perform the more difficult tasks of Christian service. We have strong exhortation not to remain in that child-like condition, because immature Christians are easily moved away from sound doctrine, which is crucial to the faith.

It is well known that babies put their interest in a variety of things, or mostly in everything. However, even

with their interest being so vast, it is also superficial and temporary. A baby takes whatever catches his attention. He keeps his eyes on one thing. He takes it, he hits the object, puts it in his mouth, and quickly throws it away. He repeats the same action during the day with new objects, until he falls asleep.

Nevertheless, while the child grows up, his field of attention begins to narrow. He wants to specialize and in this way goes into details about things, making his dedication more steady to what interests him.

The same thing occurs with the believer. As long as he remains a baby in his faith, he will be exposed to getting interested in an infinity of ideas about the existence of God, the soul, salvation, eternity, and so forth, without staying nor deepening in any of them.

As these ideas, theories and doctrines are widely assorted, and most

of the time in conflict with each other, the Word of God describes these spiritual children as being moved “to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine.” This refers to a ship, without its compass, or even its helm, that is at the mercy of the wind, with no fixed destination. These Christians are compared in other verses to the unstable wind or to the ocean waves that are never steady, and perpetually shaken. “Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines...” (Hebrews 13:9). “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed” (James 1:6).

Due to their deficient faith and lack of knowledge about the Lord Jesus Christ, these immature believers are in great danger. They can be separated from the faith, because they

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## "... WHOM I LOVE IN THE TRUTH"

*Continued from page 11*

are easily misled and diverted, just as children.

It is a huge responsibility to ministers and teachers to instruct and adequately guide all believers, depending on the grace of the Lord, declaring "all the counsel of God" and not a partial truth, a mutilation or a false Gospel. We must pray for immature believers, but we also need to instruct them properly, keeping an eye on them, being alert to those errors that proliferate and that threaten especially this kind of Christian.

False doctrines have appeared since the beginning, and they have been a plague for the entire history of the Church. They are the natural result of false teachers, who invent new theologies and sustain destructive heresies. False teachers are described in the Scriptures as evil, selfish, malevolent or deceitful men. This provides a very certain criterion of the truth. Paul attributes the departure from the truth to the cunning and deception that characterize error and false teachers.

The ICCC is called to investigate and denounce this, to protect the faithful children of God from the error of the abominable.

In Romans 16:17-18 Paul says: "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." In 2 Corinthians 2:17, Paul says: "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ." And in verse 11, he says: "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

This is the duty of the ICCC, and one of the important Biblical principles that sustains. The faithful must separate from those who call themselves Christians, but are not faithful to the Word of God. This principle is repeated throughout the Scriptures, both in the Old and New Testaments. We must know the craftiness and machinations of Satan against sound doctrine in order to warn about this trap to all believers who are faithful to the Lord.

The "machinations" of Satan, among many other evils, refer to false teachers who take a little from here and a little from there, randomly, so their false teachings are compared to the variable wind, that blows from

here and there. Since all false teachings are Biblically weak and careless, and violate the principles of Biblical interpretation, they are capricious, and they always deceive.

False teachers are usually cunning and skilled to present their false doctrines in an attractive and seemingly Biblical way. Otherwise, just a few would pay attention to them. For this reason, the Bible calls them "false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ ... [and] ministers of righteousness." And it says that Satan is "transformed into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). The Lord warns us strongly and severely against them and their false teachings:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matthew 7:15).

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock" (Acts 20:29).

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-9).

"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.... For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Philippians 3:2,18).

"But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker ..." (2 Timothy 2:16-17).





Many believers, especially the immature, do not realize the deception or the cunning of these deceivers and can be seduced by the bright clothing with which the error is presented. That is why it is a pressing need for the believer to develop rapidly towards being a perfect man. This is a great responsibility for each local church, for its pastors, officers and teachers. We must be aware of this responsibility, because we are flooded with erroneous teachings that harass us everywhere. Among them, theological liberalism (or Modernism) stands out, which, with high “scientific” pretensions, tries to demolish all the foundations of the Biblical faith. We are called to fight tirelessly against this, and the ICCC has the responsibility to inform and warn churches about these false teachers.

Nowadays, secularism, positivism, humanism, relativism, pragmatism, Marxism, and agnosticism are closely related error systems that devastate the church and severely disturb many believers. They are philosophies without God that unify the forces of unbelief in our time. This unbelief, propagated by false teachers, uses dishonest methods to separate believers from the truth and lead them to a bad way of life.

In the midst of all dangers we are called to move towards the goal of our vocation or heavenly calling, as a church and as individuals.

For that, we have to follow “the truth in love,” to resist, overcome and not be deceived. Truth and love are like the body’s natural defenses against infections. In an adult spiritual nature, the trials and temptations, and the assaults of error, stimulate growth and progress which is produced by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Following the truth includes believing and practicing the truth with love. The spiritual condition is the full recognition of the supremacy, sufficiency and lordship of Christ. Towards Him we must grow, and all growth is derived from Him.



With brethren from Kenya and Cameroon



Chile

Brazil

Peru



Chile

Liberia

USA

## Conclusion

Our good God has raised up the ICCC to be a community of believers in Christ who love each other fraternally, who are maturing spiritually, and are increasingly having the mind of Christ. Therefore, we grow spiritually, we constantly preach the gospel, the salvation only by faith in Jesus Christ, and we defend it ardently — denouncing and exposing the false teachers and exposing them as what they are: servants of Satan.

For its fidelity to Christ, the ICCC holds the need to separate from all communion with false brothers and vigorously opposes the ecumenism

sustained by the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church. This false ecumenism seeks to unite believers with non-believers in an “unequal yoke” and in a visibly false and deceptive union.

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:18). •



*The Rev. Dr. Nadir Carreño is the First Vice President of the International Council of Christian Churches, and pastor of the Smirna Fundamental Biblical Presbyterian Church of Santiago, Chile.*





The Guatemala Delegation



Rev. José Héctor Oyarce, chairman of the Chilean Planning Committee for the Congress, speaks to the delegates.



Members of the Chilean Planning Committee take a rare break!



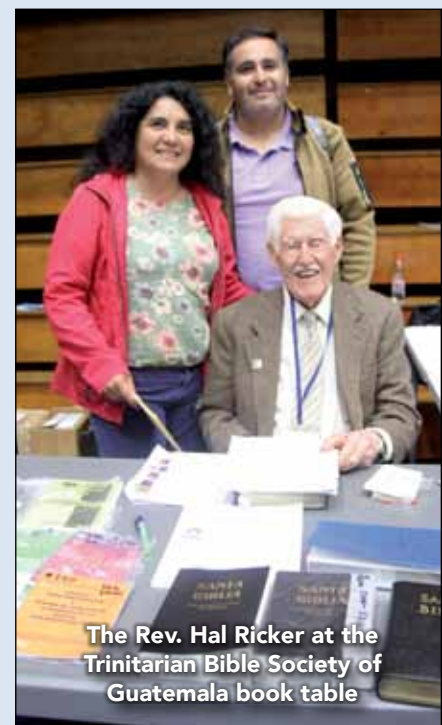
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The Rev. Hal Ricker at the Trinitarian Bible Society of Guatemala book table

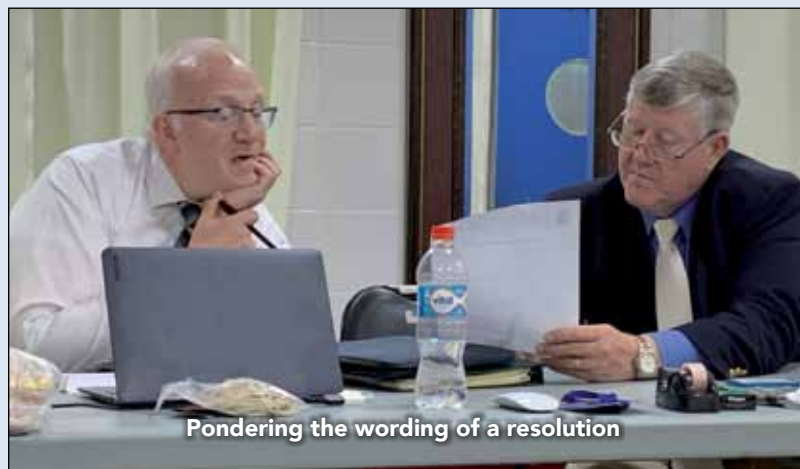


## Some of the missionaries present at the ICCC Congress

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).



Kenya



Pondering the wording of a resolution



Guatemala

Germany

Guatemala



On the evening after the conclusion of the Congress, the local Planning Committee had an appreciation dinner, complete with grilled pork chops, for the members and their families. Gifts and flowers were given to various ones.





# BEFORE & AFTER

Before and after the ICCC Congress, I had the privilege of preaching at several ICCC churches throughout Chile, and of presenting the work of the Council. —Brad Gsell



Smirna Fundamental Biblical Presbyterian Church, Santiago, Chile



With Dr. Nadir Carreño, First Vice President of the ICCC, and pastor of the Smirna Church



Genezaret Fundamental Biblical Presbyterian Church, Puerto Montt, Chile



Fourth Independent Methodist Church, Santiago, Chile



Meeting with pastors of the Alliance Church of Chile denomination



Tres Cumbres Alliance Church, near Maullín, Chile

