

WORLD REACH MISSIONARIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA

A CLASS IN COLOMBIA: FLIPPED CLASSROOM, LEARNING AND FRIENDSHIP

Alan has been involved in teaching pastors and leaders of various churches in the past. However, this MBI "Bible Survey" class in Medellín, Colombia, was very different. Our Bible Institute is putting the educational concept of the "flipped classroom" into practice. The idea is that students review the class topics at home, using written material. When the teacher arrives, then, he no longer teaches the content, but rather the meeting is dedicated to discussions, and practices based on the material already studied.

This was the experience that a beautiful group of 40 students shared with Alan as their teacher. The brothers had worked for a few months previously on questions and exercises about the sections of the Bible. During the four days of class, then, Alan prepared a series of discussion and application topics that ignited the flame of dialogue and excitement among the participants.

Indeed, in an atmosphere of curiosity and enthusiasm, for example, there was a dialogue about "How the Law of Moses can be applied in today's world" or "What was the meaning, in the book of Acts, of the growth of the Church". For the final project, Alan asked the participants to prepare, from each section of the Bible, a list of the twelve most relevant themes and passages for the church today, according to their opinion. The experience was very enriching and motivating. One of the students expressed: "I think it was the class in which we learned the most." Another sister said, with emotion: "I am very motivated to continue learning from Scripture".

For Alan, this class was very stimulating. He enjoyed the pleasant climate of Medellín, the famous Colombian "arepas" and the kindness of Colombians. Additionally, the students' interest in the class and their honest and relevant questions were exciting challenges. In fact, several of them have continued to ask questions about various topics via text messages. This class was a confirmation that it is a unique privilege to teach the Word of God to the Church in different places. Glory to the Lord!

SHARING SECRETS OF SOUND PREACHING

"Albin" is a young leader of the "Emanuel" church. He is in charge of a group of teenagers and is one of the deacons. Additionally, he taught in the congregation's men's group. Albin and his wife are part of a group which is receiving a special training called "How to Prepare Memorable Teachings" that Alan is teaching at the church.

Initially, the idea was to train only a few brothers to strengthen the preaching ministry. However, our pastor proposed to expand the group to include those who teach in different ministries. This includes Sunday School teachers, men's leaders, Ladies ministry, youth ministry, and teen ministry. The opportunity to share this teaching with all the teachers in the congregation is exceptional.

Thus, every two weeks, on Sunday afternoon, Alan has the opportunity to share about different topics related to teaching and preparing Bible studies and preaching. So far, he has had two teaching sessions. In the first, he focused on the importance of addressing real, transformative needs in teaching and how biblical passages can be chosen to address those needs. The second session was focused on the importance of correct observation of the biblical text and some exercises to notice details and emphases made by the biblical writers. With an eager attitude to learn and improve, some twenty to thirty brothers have participated in the activities, asked questions, and enjoyed a very productive time of communion. Albin approached Alan and said, "It is very challenging to teach the Bible, but thank you for your very practical teachings and suggestions. I am encouraged to teach better what God teaches us in his Word." Thank the

Lord for these opportunities. Please, pray for this

group of leaders and for this time of teaching.

HEALING HEARTS IN A SEMINARY

"Leon" is a young student at the Bible Seminary in our city. He has a desire to prepare better to serve the Lord and work in a local church. Recently, Dorys offered the Seminary the possibility of sharing the workshop called "How to Heal the Wounds of the Heart" to the students of the Seminary as part of their preparation in the emotional area.

The Seminary authorities accepted and, thus, for five nights, Dorys used Bible-based reflections, group work, illustrations and reflections on the personal lives of the participants to make the students aware of the emotional wounds that we all carry in the heart and how to be healed through the power of the Lord and the principles of the Word of God.

As part of the activities, there was a moment in which each participant wrote a difficult event in his life that has left marks on his heart. That was a time of high emotional content. The atmosphere was very solemn and silence filled the room. Suppressed sobs and some heavy sighs were even heard. As they all wrote these experiences, Dorys read some Bible passages that clearly describe how the Lord heals wounds and does not abandon those who are suffering.

At the end of all the teaching time, Leon timidly approached Dorys and with a relieved face and a smile, he handed her a paper while saying: "Thank you very much for this time of healing. It was a great blessing for everyone. I want to share with you this poem that I wrote and that reflects my experience during this teaching. Again, thank you for having been used by God for our healing." In the poem, the young man expressed the pain he had suffered, the burden he had carried for a long time, and the freedom he had achieved through the love and healing power of the Lord. The last line of the poem says: "Now I know that I have a new heart, wrought with patience by the Lord and his infinite mercy."

Praise the Lord for the opportunity to help these dear young people who are preparing to serve in the work of God. Please pray for Leon and the rest of the students who come from diverse areas of Honduras. Also, pray for the ministry of restoration that Dorys and Alan are promoting.

SOME PICTURES OF MINISTRY



Alan and his students in Medellín, Colombia



Class of teaching and preaching



Dorys and the students in the class of "Healing Hearts"

Dear brothers and sisters:

Thank you very much for your support and prayers. We love you, and we are constantly praying that the Lord bless you richly in every area of your life.



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