

Rough Notes From Our Trips To Cali, Columbia #1

“Being Stuck”

Pastor Adalberto Herrera – Cali, Columbia, March 22, 2007

Pastor Adalberto: The Problem of Being Stuck

--twelve years of being very small (30-35). The building was a shame.

The church used to have the reputation of “those poor people.” Now it is famous for being the church of the rich people.

Haggai 1: Six reasons of being stuck.

1. The problem of leadership. “You expected much but you have harvested little.”

--We start many churches but do not see much growth. Most churches are not growing at all, declining.

--We have a church that is stuck, dying. The church is asleep and needs to wake up and change. We have big infrastructures but no results. (too many missionaries?) We are wasting a lot of resources in bureaucracy, etc. “It hurts to give to the church that is stuck. The problem is one of leadership. When a church doesn’t function, or a cell doesn’t function, the problem is not the people but the leader. (Adalberto learned this from his own experience in the church.) Only knowing small things and the problem of low self esteem. Fear. And very legalistic regarding the Manual. The Manual is not more important than the Bible. There is a similarity of structure among all of the mega churches of the world. The structure of the Church of the Nazarene tends to resist large church growth. (Adalberto spoke some about the problem of missionaries imposing the system and culture of the North American church on the church here. This became a major obstacle. The churches in Colombia that remain small are those that adhere to this cultural imposition. They don’t function biblically. Leaders have to be willing to change their way of thinking and doing things. Most pastors in Colombia feel that if they can just get the church to grow to the level to give them just an adequate salary to live on they have achieved what they need to achieve. (The missionaries unconsciously instill a vision for “self-support” as the ultimate objective.) According to God’s Word, we should not be satisfied with any level of achievement. Our standard is God’s standard of reaching all people. “We haven’t seen anything yet compared to what God is going to do.” “God has raised us up to be men and women leading multitudes.”

In Colombia we can’t stand back and wait for the missionaries and the US church to come, send money, and help us. Our help comes from God.

--Carnal board members are an obstacle to God’s work

2. The problem of sin in the congregation.

--Haggai 2:13, sin defiles. God holds back the blessings because of sin. You can trace this throughout Scripture. (Why has God withheld His anointing?)

--When we are getting closer to God a lot of temptations are going to come, but if we seek Him with all of our heart, God will protect us and give us his power.

--Pastor's wife is often the most sensitive person for the pastor to pay attention to regarding people in the church. Listen to her.

--Common sin among pastors is laziness and wasting his time.

3. The lack of covering (prayer, blessing and authority)

--Hebrews 5:12, minister in patience

--Pastors need to have someone pastoring them. They need to be fed, nourished and enriched in faith and positive vision. Too many district meetings are negative, critical and argumentative.

--Adalberto is "crying" for covering in the Church of the Nazarene. There is a lot of criticism against any Nazarene church that grows large.

--Accountability in moral and sexual areas. Pastors of large churches need special prayer, protection and covering. The enemy is seeking to tear down.

--We all need to be as humble as sheep.

4. Lack of Vision

--Haggai 2:3-9, We need a fresh wind and new anointing in the new church. We don't need to be afraid in Pentecostalism. Our future glory will be greater than our past glory. There is a new generation that is being reached, changes are taking place.

--The key to the church is the development of leaders. There is a direct ratio between the number of trained working leaders and the size of the total church. Focus on the discipleship and reproduction of leaders. Unfortunately, most of what we do in the church is out of habit and tradition. We need new life. We have to get rid of many patterns that are in our mind. We often people comforts rather than Jesus. You take the comforts away and you have a problem. Cali doesn't offer anything but Jesus.

--What is going to happen, when it is going to happen and how it is going to happen.

5. The problem of Financial Difficulties

--We need to be willing to invest in a place where we open a new church.

6. The problem of opposition

--Ezra 4:5,

This is opposition within the church. In some places there are people who need to leave. They oppose leadership. (Adalberto disbanded the church board because they opposed everything. Now, God has given him a church board that supports him in the vision. In too many churches, the treasurer controls the money and the church.) The pastor has to have a team that understands and supports the pastor and his vision. As senior pastor he acts as the main leader of the church. The board is advisory in nature. He has an administrative board that is different from his twelve.

Perseverance is key for leadership. "If God can do it in Cali, He can do it any place in the world. He is no respecter of persons. He does not discriminate. He treats all of his children the same.

"And God added daily to their number those that were being saved."

--In less than three months they have added over 1,000 new believers that are now being worked with in the consolidation process

How did they overcome these obstacles? (Haggai 1:2, "They obeyed the voice of God.")

The answer is in the "Word of God." (God will destroy our enemies.)

--Holiness is not an end in itself. In the book of Acts, the first proof of the Holy Spirit is "witness." "We are small but holy" is not a biblical concept.