



Abide in Christ

Prayer and Praise with Wil and Ann Pounds

New Evangelism and Missions Department at Peniel Seminary

Above photo of evangelism team with Michael Pettitte witnessing in a subdivision of Riobamba, Ecuador, near the Peniel Seminary property. Below a demonstration on personal witnessing at the conference under the big tent on the seminary property.

I did my field mission assignments while at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in the "heart of hell" in New Orleans. Every student was required to complete weekly mission assignments for two years as a graduation requirement. I preached on the

the right person in the right place at the right time.

This week I saw the Lord bring together the fulfilment of a dream for training Ecuadorian Quichua leaders in personal evangelism, discipleship and church planting. As the International Coordinator of Peniel Theological Seminary I have had a vision of a Department of Evangelism and Missions at the Seminary. Yes, the seminary has excellent courses on evangelism and missions, but my vision has

"CALL UNTO ME, AND I WILL ANSWER YOU, AND I WILL TELL YOU GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS, WHICH YOU DO NOT KNOW"
(JEREMIAH 33:3).

conference, and the individuals whom God chose to lead the conference.

Dr. Rick Cain give outstanding presentations on discipleship and the formation of churches. His emphasis on discipleship included excellent emphasis on the early church and the resurrection of Christ. The response of the students was outstanding.

Damaso Francisco, the mission's professor, gave the best presentations I have ever heard on cross cultural missions. None of my graduate courses in the seminary were of this quality.

Alberto Copa as always gave practical challenging messages on the call and responsibilities of pastors and missionaries.

My presentations were on the biblical emphasis on personal evangelism in Acts, how to present the Roman Road, including demonstrations, etc. I concluded the conference on a challenge from *The Autopsy of a Dead Church*. If you don't take seriously what this conference is all about your church will eventually die.

Sensing the leading of the Lord, Ann and I funded the initial beginning of the **Evangelism and Missions Department at Peniel Seminary**. This will provide practical opportunities for students to put in practice what they are studying. It will also provide a future ministry for **Abide in Christ teams in Latin America**.

street and did personal evangelism in Jackson Square and Bourbon Street area. Many mornings my wife never knew who would greet her on the living room couch as she headed off to teach school. These were often drunks I led to the Lord and brought home for the night.

There is something exciting about being involved in what God is doing when you are

been to make it a major focus of the outreach of the seminary preparing and sending out evangelism teams and missionaries all over Latin America and beyond.

The 8th Annual Abide in Christ Pastor Leadership Conference this year focused on Evangelism, Discipleship and Church Planting. The timing was perfect for the



You, through your prayers and support make this ministry possible.



Wil and Rick with Damaso Francisco, Peniel mission's professor. They are joined by a recent graduate of Peniel in Christian education. She is also a graduate of Ecuador's Chimborazo University in Riobamba.

Eighty percent of Peniel graduates have also completed university studies elsewhere before coming students at the seminary. They include engineers, educators, medical doctors, systems engineers, business men and women, etc.

Michael Pettitte, a school teacher from Texas, spent the first week with me and Peniel students witnessing. "I flew to Ecuador and spent a week in the town of Riobamba this July. I got to serve alongside Wil, Pastor Alejandro, and a few seminary students as we went throughout a village witnessing, praying and gauging people's interest in a Bible Study in the town. The ground in Ecuador is soft and ready for the Gospel. We visited 33 groups of people who were more than willing to let us pray with them and share the Roman Road. This particular village has a hunger for the Word and the Gospel and, thankfully, there are workers in Ecuador prepared to do this work. All of my stories are not fun though. I can tell you of a 95 year old man who said he had sinned too much to receive God's forgiveness. But, as a contrast to that story, I can tell you of a lady who cried as she prayed a prayer of repentance and salvation with Pastor Alejandro. The Lord is growing His church and faithful students in Ecuador. I felt privileged to get to work alongside them for a week. I highly encourage anyone to make the trip there and see what the Lord is up to."

I cease to be amazed at how the Lord puts us in the right place at the right time to witness to God's saving grace with the right person.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For Abide in Christ mission updates go to: www.AbideInChrist.com/missions/

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PRAY & UPDATES ON MISSION PROJECTS

- ✓ Pray for evangelism teams to go door to door witnessing in this unreached area of Riobamba. Pray for Alejandro and Damaso as they lead this ministry in the new Department of Evangelism and Missions.
- ✓ Lord willing in September, I will teach a seminary course on Romans through Philemon at the Peniel Seminary extension in Guayaquil, Ecuador. I will also minister in Quichua churches and students in Riobamba.
- ✓ Pray for the October 19-26, 2018 Medical Dental Team in Ecuador. Dr. Howell is the Team Captain.
- ✓ Pray for evangelism team to join Jerry Starnes and me going door-to-door with seminary students in October 26-Nov 2. **COME JOIN THE TEAM!**
- ✓ Pray for the third Evangelism in Depth, and Key Bible Doctrines Conference at Hebron Baptist Church in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in November 2018.

Dr. Cain's observations on this trip: "Ecuador is an incredible country, from the snowcapped mountains to the warm and friendly people. I have fallen in love what God is doing there! For starters, Peniel Theological Seminary is providing much needed biblical grounding to serious students desiring to serve God in a greater way. Alberto Copa and the team there have been very impressive in their faithfulness and focus to their calling. The graduation ceremony this past trip will always be remembered by me as a time of seeing future leaders move on to the next season of their lives. It's an honor to serve in a small way with them. Church planting seems to be one direction God is moving in Ecuador, and what He will do there in the coming years, through both the seminary and church planting, will be a blessing to watch!"