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Dear Friends,

Last year was a very active year for the Christian Community, (coalition of Catholics, Evangelicals, and all of those whose dogma is even vaguely related to Christ), in Colombia. There were marches in defense of the family and against the LGBT movement. Throngs of people in white tee shirts filled the streets of every major city. The church was making a statement, which, sadly, ended up being more political than biblical. Interestingly, the major players in this movement ended up putting their name in the hat and started showing up on the ballots of the congressional and presidential elections, which are currently in full swing.

We felt it was necessary to craft a statement that would guide us through these confusing times. So I spent several weeks teaching on marriage, the family, divorce, and, yes, homosexuality. This seemed to be the most sensitive subject. I asked the Lord to guide my study and my words. **My first observation** was that Romans 1 is not a study on homosexuality. **It is a declaration of the power of the Gospel!** Paul establishes his premise in **verse 16: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...*** Then Paul places all of us under the wrath of God by exposing our horrendous sin of choosing to worship the creature rather than the Creator. From that point on everything goes down hill, climaxing in the most degrading and unimaginable sins. **But we must remember that the premise is that Gospel is powerful enough to save anyone who believes...**including those who practice sodomy!

Out of that study, we crafted a statement that now guides us through these troubled times: ***Never give up!*** and ***Never give in!*** **We never give up on the most depraved sinner;** there is room at the cross for him/her! **We never give in;** what that person is doing is sin! It is the same message that we offer to every lost person. **This statement served us well this past weekend!** Four transgender people were invited to our Adult Evangelistic Camp. They had already gone through the gender change. Two of them stood out. One was the activist that was going demand her rights and insisted on not being discriminated. The other one was quiet, but full of passive resistance. Alejo, our Day Zero Director, received a message yesterday from the activist. She said, *"Please pray for me...I know my life now has to change!"* So...how complicated is to reverse a sex change? What journey does God have in mind for this person? I have no idea, but one thing I do know: ***I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes!***

When Paul arrived in Corinth, he described his physical and emotional state as being ***in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.*** (1 ***Corinthian 2:3***). But God spoke to him: ***Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:*** ¹⁰ ***For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.*** (Acts 18:9 – 10). Paul purposed not ***to know any thing among them, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*** (1 ***Corinthian 2:3***). So, what kind of people did God have in Corinth? Here is what Paul says: ***Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*** ¹⁰ ***Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*** ¹¹ ***And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*** (1 ***Corinthians 6:9 – 11***)

It is no wonder that Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ! He had seen its power! We took **439** unsaved adults to camp, **173 accepted Christ as Savior.** Now we anticipate seeing a lot of changed people!

We count it a privilege to represent you here in Colombia. Remember, this is fruit that abounds to your account!

Thank you,
Craig and Fran Lingo