

## TRIP TO VENEZUELA

In June, 2006 I took a bit part in a long running drama between Satan and his Prince over Venezuela against the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Perhaps I had better go back and tell you the circumstances that evolved that led to this trip. Ann and I had been invited to visit a close friend in Hazlehurst to meet their new Pastor and hear him preach in 2005. It just so happened the only time we could go was on a Sunday when they had a guest Missionary. The guest Missionary was Jerry Morris and his wife, Miok. Jerry was originally from Hazlehurst, Ga. They were home on vacation from Venezuela.

We were introduced after the service and in the course of conversation He was told that I headed up a program of counseling called Life Enrichment. He said I went through that program about twenty-eight years ago in Hazlehurst and it changed my life.

He said would you consider bringing a team down to Venezuela and teaching all my cell group leaders about Life Enrichment and doing a Spiritual Warfare Seminar? I told him I would consider it.

I told him that I had one problem. I don't speak Spanish. Could he have someone translate my material into Spanish? As it turned out he did just that.

After much prayer and preparation the Lord brought together a team of eight awesome people to make the trip. All of them had some experience in our counseling program. Perhaps I had better introduce the team to you. I was privileged to have my wife, Ann join us and she led a team. Elaine Sanders who has been working in the program for over twenty years. Patti Noles is an accomplished intercessor. Randall Long and his wife Tracy who also are very gifted. Tracy counsels with me quite often. Tim and Lynn Martin also helped us in many ways. They have since made a commitment to go to the mission field full time.

We arrived in Venezuela in June 2006. Ann and I had the privilege of staying with Jerry and his wife Miok and the other members stayed in different places, some with another missionary and others in the motel.

They truly prepared for us. All the members of the cell groups had a copy of my Manual set before them in Spanish. The lady who copied the Manuel happened to be my interpreter.

When our team went to Venezuela the purpose of the trip in part was to train the church there how to understand spiritual warfare and how to fight

spiritual battles in our lives and how to bring down principalities over countries and areas. One of the team members, Elaine Sanders, taught about Ephesians 6:12 on how to pull down principalities and powers over areas. The husband of our interpreter was there to support his wife and heard the teaching. This man happens to work for Rev. John Maxwell in that country. At lunch time that day he called Elaine and me aside and told us that he had a vision that he didn't understand concerning war and men on horses etc. He petitioned the Lord for an interpretation. The Lord told him he would put him in touch with someone from the United States to give him the interpretation. He told Elaine you have given me the interpretation of my vision and the battle we must fight as Christians. This is a man of great influence in that country. He is a traveling minister. He is also one of the regional coordinators for John Maxwell in Venezuela. He was a part of a group that put together a conference for Rev. John Maxwell and brought together 1750 pastors for his first conference in that country.

We finished the teaching on Spiritual Warfare the first day and began the second day with teaching the concepts of the Life Enrichment program. After lunch I continued to teach while my team divided up and started taking three of them through the Life Enrichment program while I continued to teach for the rest of the day. For the sake of those that missed the teaching, the messages were taped so that they could be heard later.

For the next three days we had three teams working all the time. By the time we left we had taken fourteen members through the program.

Let me tell you about one particular session. One of the candidates had been involved in witchcraft earlier in her life. While ministering to her in a session that was being led by Tracy, the girl was not able to cooperate. The demons were challenging her at every turn. Randall, her husband, got a Word from God that she needed to be water baptized and I confirmed it. We proceeded to fill the bathtub with water and got the Missionary to baptize her. Something broke in the Spirit and she was able to co-operate fully in her deliverance and since we were there has been the one who was overseer of the Life Enrichment program. The program is still going on and at last count there has been well over fifty people that have gone through the program.

On Sunday we had the awesome privilege to hold a healing service among the people we had been teaching.

When the missionaries were in our home on their next furlough they shared an event that happened the month after we left Venezuela. When the missionary was in his study at home he had a vision of Venezuelans standing

on the steps of the capital in Caracas fighting a spiritual battle in behalf of his country by pulling down strongholds in the Heavens. The missionary knew he couldn't go because he is not a Venezuelan but he shared it with his church body at the next meeting. Several of the leaders that we had trained said they would go. The day they went, when they were at the capital fighting a spiritual battle with their hands in the air suddenly all traffic stopped in that very busy city. Either God or the police stopped the traffic for a period of time. You draw your own conclusion. Right after this happened President Chavez showed up with his entire escort. They entered the area where the church people were and for some reason they did not even acknowledge that they were there. Back in Valencia where the missionary lived he was again in his study praying and he began to shake almost uncontrollably for a few minutes. He knew it was spiritual and he called down to the capital to find out what was going on and asked about 10:20 in particular. That was the time that President Chavez arrived at the capital. I will let you draw your conclusion as to what God is doing in Venezuela but I encourage you to pray for the people down there that they will finish the job that God has called them to do in fighting the spiritual battle in behalf of their country. I firmly believe that teaching on Eph. 6:12 was taken to heart by those who heard it and it is bearing fruit. Let me give you an example.

The following year while watching a Benny Hinn program one day a man came on the program who was a pastor in the city of Valencia where we went and told Benny Hinn he was there on a mission. He said I am a pastor of a church of twenty thousand members. One of my members is the governor of my state who got radically saved. This governor said I have talked to President Chavez who is a friend of mine, and the government of Venezuela has authorized the use of one thousand busses to be used for a crusade if you will come. The pastor said the churches of Venezuela have also authorized one thousand busses to be used. By the time Benny Hinn made this commitment that happened in December 2007 between the government and the churches had increased the number of available busses to 5000.

I have on hand a DVD of that crusade. It was awesome. I heard Benny Hinn say later that of all the traveling he had done to that point this was one of the top two moves of the Spirit he had seen.

Since then Benny Hinn has been down there again for another crusade and in both of the crusades the pastors that John Maxwell had trained were part of the counseling team in both crusades.

I have since received a report from the missionary, Jerry Morris, who is back in the States now about some new developments that have happened in that country in the past year.

The last week of November before Benny Hinn came some Christian military commanders asked president Chavez if they could use the presidential helicopter. He gave them permission and 7 military commanders and three civilians flew to the four cardinal points of Venezuela, the North, South, East and West (I saw a video of this.). They planted a Venezuelan flag at each point as they anointed the place with oil and interceded and did spiritual warfare for Venezuela claiming the country for Him. During this same time there was a prayer and spiritual warfare movement that was orchestrated by God and almost all the evangelical churches were fasting and praying for the country and the upcoming elections for a referendum of socialism. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> the referendum for socialism was defeated in an election. Shortly afterwards the churches in Valencia organized prayer walks, vigils, and one Saturday they all went up on the mountain tops surrounding the city and prayed and pulled down the strongholds in the city. From that time on in our church we have had at least one person pray to receive the Lord every week. We have heard other reports of the same from other churches in the city.

One other thing has happened. Of course, I brought back a copy of my Manuel in Spanish and have put in the hands our Honduras missionaries and three other missionaries in Central American countries to be used at the proper time.