

June 2006: Giving a Reason for the Hope Within Us

by Aaron Greenway

A few days ago we made a trip to Laredo, Texas to do a missions presentation at a church. After the service we took the opportunity to cross the Mexican border. Just like I had seen in Peru we saw people selling things on the streets as well as women with their children asking for money. A particular man was selling the obviously pirated DVD, "The DaVinci Code". This intrigued me because this movie has offended a lot of folks; and even though I have not personally seen it (or read the book), I am still familiar with the particular heresies that are causing much of the trouble.

Carlos Fernández, a spokesman for Doctor Don Bierle, a well-known apologist, came to our church two weeks ago to give a presentation on the authenticity of the Bible and the deception of the DaVinci Code telling the public that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married and had a child named Sarah. Carlos also mentioned that Dan Brown, the author of the book, had gotten the information from sources of the 9th century while the Gospels had been written in the generation of the eye witnesses. It is amazing how people would rather believe the lie over someone who actually saw it happen.

But it doesn't even matter how many lies the Enemy tries to throw at people because the Truth can always defend itself. However, at the same time, we must be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks. The Apostle Peter even says in I Peter 3:15, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." The question that goes through my mind is, "How many opportunities have I had to share the truth with someone and for some reason, I found a way not to do it, maybe because of fear, or because I didn't know what to say?" Either way, I was disobedient to God.

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Well, the same day that we went to Mexico, on our way back we decided to stop by to see some of my wife's family that lives in San Antonio, her great-aunt and her daughter. Both were very kind and generous with us. Her great-aunt, who used to work for one of the presidents of Bolivia, expressed how much she loved to read the Bible. Her daughter also told us that she was reading the Word of God. It was great to hear that these two women were seeking the Lord. But during our visit, the Lord instructed me to speak with them about knowing where they stood with God, and so I wrote down all of the Scriptures I could think of on a piece of paper outlining the plan of salvation, in addition to having a conversation about their relationship with the Lord.

Thinking it over, when a person really loves Jesus and loves his/her friends and family, he/she cannot simply sit by and watch them go to hell without saying anything or doing anything. Not only that, when we look around us, we see so many people with empty lives searching for God in the bars or in a drug. But it doesn't have to be negative. People can search for God in the positive things and still miss the mark. They do it through their "good" works, through charity, and being a "good person". They believe that God has to accept them for their goodness, but God is not comparing their goodness to the goodness of someone else; He is comparing it to His own. In fact, the Bible makes it clear that we are to be holy as God is holy if we ever hope to go to Heaven. In the eyes of God, we are all wicked people. Only Jesus was good enough to please God completely. But instead of accepting his place in Heaven, Jesus came, lived among us, and took our place on the cross stained by our sin. Three days later he came out of the grave alive. For this reason, we could never tell God how righteous we are. In fact, our so-called righteousness could never save us when Jesus, the true righteous one, died for us.

With everything on the line, with so many going to hell, the question becomes, "What are we going to do about it?" We have two options. We can do absolutely nothing, or we can pray, reach out and talk about our Lord before it is too late. If someone were to die at this moment, and we had not told them about Jesus, they would go to a place of eternal punishment. I don't think we recognize this deeply much about it. This is very serious, my brothers and sisters, but some don't seem to care because their lives are so consumed with their own things, everything having to do with "Yours Truly".

God willing, in three months we are going to release a brand new album. More than five years have passed since the last CD came out. When God called me to the mission field, I was content to go to Latin America with only a shovel in my hands if necessary. My days as a musician I was willing to leave far behind. But on my short-term mission trips in the country God kept providing me with opportunities to continue to share the Gospel musically.

Nevertheless, I did not have any material in Spanish, so we all came together to compose music that would communicate the Gospel very clearly to anyone who would listen in the Spanish language. Even the last song gives the person the opportunity to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We are very serious in what we are doing.

It doesn't matter what your tool or talent is. God can use what you have. But what God wants most is your time and your heart. He wants you to give it to him so He can use it. He wants to use you to communicate His truth with the lost, the very thing that can save them (Mathew 5:13). It is time that we not just talked about doing it, but that we actually did it. Whether because of a movie or a book, the opportunities that present themselves to us can be well used to shine the light of truth in our dark world. The Enemy will try and use it to his advantage, but we can use it to refute the lie and guide the lost to the Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Something to ponder...

Your brother,

Aaron Greenway