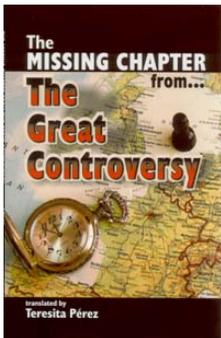


Testimony of my Conversion

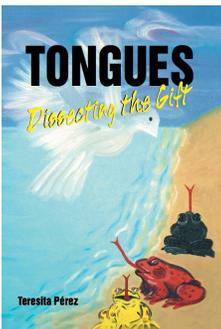
I was raised a Catholic, and as a child the nuns who were my teachers taught that it was a sin to read the Bible. By age 19, I was ignorant of Scripture and had never heard of the SDA church. A lady I met, named Morayma, lent me her copy of *The Great Controversy* in Spanish. I held on to it for about two years without reading it and wanted to return it. Yet in my heart I felt I should read it, so I wrote to Pacific Press asking for a copy. Months later, on a Monday mid-afternoon, I decided to read from a Bible that Morayma had made me buy. As I sat in a recliner, there was a knock at the door. It was a man. I was not going to let him in, but he showed me my letter which Pacific Press had sent to him. That was his Visa so-to-speak. I allowed Pr. Gerardo Brito, then a colporteur, into my home. Seeing a Bible in my hand, he gave me my first Bible study. Before he left, I purchased the Bible Stories for children and gave the books to my parents as a gift. They both loved to read, and they read the 10-volume set, which ushered them into a knowledge of Scripture. That same week I read *The Great Controversy* in its entirety and was deeply moved by Chapter 13, a work co-authored by C. C. Crisler and H. H. Hall, and included in the Spanish version with the permission of Mrs. White. On Saturday I got up at daybreak, took two trains (New York City), a bus, walked eight blocks, knocked at Morayma's door, and when she opened I said, "Take me to the church that meets on Saturdays." The following week I invited my mother, who replied her rejection with disdain, "The last thing I would ever do is go to a Seventh-day Adventist church."

Bible studies continued in my home for a few weeks, attended only by myself and my married sister, Maria, who lived next door. When an altercation between Maria and her husband about some Biblical matter arose, my father became enraged and said it was all my fault. Then he turned to me; and I, fearing he would beat the living daylights out of me, fled my home with no time to even put on my shoes. It was about sunset and I walked for over an hour the streets of the Bronx. I came up to a hospital where a guard was asleep inside a booth by the parking gate. I crouched outside and stayed there all night. In the morning I returned home. The colporteur was due to come that evening. My mother called him and said not to come because my father did not want him at our house. When he learned what had happened to me, he said he would come regardless and that this time he wanted my father and the entire family to listen to the Bible study. When I learned about Pr. Brito's determination, I couldn't fathom someone confronting my dad. But he did just that. He came and he waited in the living room, my mom telling him my dad would not attend. Brito said to tell him he wouldn't leave or start the study without my dad. And so for the next hour my mother went back and forth between the living room and the bedroom. Finally, my father joined us. The Bible study was about relationships within a family, that families should fight, but for each other. Even my brother-in-law attended that day. Many studies which all the family participated in followed. When I was baptized, so was my sister and her husband, and my mother also. This is what Pr. Brito said of my mom at her baptism: "This lady said that the last thing she would ever do is go to a Seventh-day Adventist church, and she said the truth. This is her last stop. She's not going to any other church after this." A few months later my father was also baptized.

~*~



The Missing Chapter from the Great Controversy. Sometime after I joined the Seventh-Day Adventist church I was surprised to learn that the chapter which impacted me so was not part of the English original. Fast forward three decades. Suddenly a thought came to me, "Translate into English and publish the extra chapter." After consulting with a copyright attorney at the law firm where I worked, confirming there would be no legal repercussions, I contacted the Ellen G. White Estate to learn about the two persons who wrote the chapter, only because I was intrigued by their initials C.C.C. and H.H.H.; Timothy Poirier, who took my call, chuckled at my concern and confirmed who they were: Clarence C. Crisler, secretary to Ellen White, and Harry Harvey Hall, Manager of the Book Department at Pacific Press. I learned from Mr. Poirier a brief history of the extra chapter, and was astonished to find out the English original had been lost. He said they had considered translating it back into English due to inquiries by other callers. I told him that I was going to translate it. He asked me to send him a copy when I did. I assured him I would and did so.



TONGUES Dissecting the Gift. I never meant to publish a book. My study on the subject of tongues as a spiritual gift resulted from my concern for my children who were very young at the time. What if something should happen to me and I never got to study this subject with them? I wanted to leave the results of my study on paper, that they may know why it is that if a person speaking cannot know what they themselves are saying, it is because it is not the Holy Spirit's true gift of tongues. Years passed, my sons became adults, and they, along with other family members and friends, encouraged me to publish my study.

"I have read the writings on the gift of tongues by Teresita Pérez and judge them to be valuable, lean firmly on the Holy Scriptures, and I recommend them for the benefit of our ministers. The investigation Miss Pérez commenced merits our recognition and heartfelt support."—Salim Japas, D. Min., (1921-1992), late Pastor, Inter-American Division.

"*TONGUES Dissecting the Gift* gives us an excellent picture of the work of the Holy Spirit. It analyzes in a succinct format the whole scope of the Bible regarding the subject of tongues, with special emphasis in the Holy Spirit."—Pr. Leo S. Ranzolin, retired Vice-President, General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists.