

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS INTERNATIONAL

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Gerald Christian Matatics, Founder & President

Anti-Catholic Fundamentalist who converted
after hearing Gerry speak at Furman University
has entered seminary to be traditional Catholic priest!

Winter 2005-2006

Dear Catholic Friend,

2005 was my busiest year ever. As a Catholic apologist, I typically give about 200 talks each year in dozens of cities and towns throughout the US as well as abroad. But in 2006 I'll kick off the most ambitious tour in the fifteen years that I've been doing this, delivering a four-talk seminar entitled "The Four Things Every Person Needs to Know" in every one of the 50 largest cities of the US as well as several smaller but strategic cities. (My website at www.gerrymatatics.org has the full itinerary.)

Why do I do this? As Msgr. Joseph Clifford Fenton, a well-known American theologian of the mid-twentieth century, put it:

"The work of Catholic charity is definitely not complete unless every effort has been expended to free men from the errors that keep them from the eternal possession of God which is their only ultimate end. And, since, by God's own institution, the true Church of Jesus Christ is really requisite for the attainment of man's eternal and supernatural salvation, the work of Catholic charity is lamentably incomplete unless every reasonable effort has been made to persuade non-Catholics to enter this [Church]."

Does it pay off, spiritually speaking? By God's grace, yes. In even the unlikeliest audiences, God can draw men to Himself by a clear and persuasive presentation of the truth. I'll give you just one example: halfway through a jam-packed speaking tour of the East Coast some time ago, I gave an official, university-sponsored lecture (with academic credit given to attendees!) at Furman University, a large Protestant university in Greenville, SC. (Greenville, "the buckle on the Bible belt," is also the home of Bob Jones University, the Fundamentalist school famous for its militant anti-Catholicism.) The topic they approved, amazingly enough, was "How the Bible Converted Me to Catholicism: One Protestant Minister's Personal Odyssey of Faith."

On that occasion - with the amphitheater filled to double its regulation capacity, and hundreds of students standing in the

back, sitting in the aisles, on the floor in front, and even around my feet on the stage - these bright, serious Protestants had sat riveted to their chairs, astounded to hear a Biblical defense of Catholic teaching as well as Scriptural critiques of Protestant errors on salvation, sacraments, Mary, papacy, etc.

Thinking neither I - nor any other Catholic apologist - would ever get a chance quite like that again, I told them, charitably but uncompromisingly, that if they remained Protestants they could no longer claim with a clear conscience to be Bible-believing Christians, since I had shown them sufficient evidence that the Bible taught the Catholic Faith, not Protestantism. I told them that if they wanted to be truly Bible-believing Christians, they needed to become Catholics. I thanked them for the privilege of addressing them, for their hospitality and attentiveness, told them that I loved them and that I would be praying for their conversions.

Their response, truly a work of God's supernatural grace, astounded me. Despite my challenging them to re-think their most fundamental convictions, the entire audience of Protestants stood to its feet and gave me a loud, long, standing ovation.

I was flabbergasted. But that was nothing compared to what followed. For though none of the students had to stay for the ensuing question and answer period, over half of them did, only peeling away by ones and twos over the next several hours.

Although I had begun speaking at 7 pm and finished my talk proper at 9, the last group of students did not leave the question and answer period until 2:30 am! It was a powerful indicator of just how hungry people are for the truth when God's grace has its way with them, and how rare they find the opportunity to get clear, convincing, Biblically-based answers to their questions about the differences between Protestantism and Catholicism.

One of those students who stayed to the very end, firing question after question at me, was Jonathan Arrington, a student who was, by his own admission, a convinced anti-Catholic. His goal that night had been to "win me back to Biblical Christianity," and he had prayed much that morning that "by God's grace eyes would be opened to see the truth and to reject error." The following is an unsolicited testimony Jonathan posted on the Internet, unbeknownst to me (initially, soon after our encounter:

I had been a Fundamental Evangelical Southern Baptist all my life. I was as anti-Catholic as one could be before I heard Gerry Matatics at Furman. To be blunt, I thought all Catholics were going to hell and had no

idea of what Christianity really was. However, while listening to Gerry from 7 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. (when we were forced out by school policy, not because of Gerry's unwillingness to listen to more of my accusations and pedantic questions), I realized that Gerry Matatics was one Catholic who knew the Bible, was a Christian, and had posed questions to me that I could not answer from my "sola scriptura, sola fide" background. He offered both a friend of mine and me ALL of his available tapes for FREE and gave us his e-mail address for any further questions we might have ... While listening to Gerry for 7½ hours I heard nothing but Biblical and historical proofs. I praise the thrice-holy Trinity for working through Gerry Matatics to lead me to the Catholic Church and I now desire to serve Christ's True Church in the Holy Priesthood.

Thanks to that initial conversation and many subsequent ones, Jonathan not only joined the Catholic Church but, after graduating from Furman and studying with me for part of a summer, entered a traditional seminary in Europe so he can spend his life preaching the traditional Catholic Faith and offering the traditional Latin Mass. He was instrumental in getting me to lecture again at Furman on a subsequent trip, despite opposition from so-called "moderate" but non-traditional Catholics there, and he will be a strategic leader in the battle to restore Tradition to the contemporary Catholic scene.

Jonathan's is only one of many, many such stories I could tell you from the 15 years I've been criss-crossing our country, bringing the Faith to countless big cities and small towns alike. I've been blessed to see people's objections to Catholicism collapse in the face of solid Biblical arguments, and my dozens of file drawers are overflowing with letters from thousands of non-Catholics who have come into (and former Catholics who have come back to) the Church because of this apostolate.

Though I've logged hundreds of thousands of weary miles and given over 3,000 talks in 47 states as well as abroad, there's still much to do. In 2006 I'll not only (God willing) speak in the three states I haven't yet spoken in (Alaska, Arkansas, Montana) but also hope to return to several of the other 47 by year's end.

Most of these trips I fund out of my own pocket, putting all expenses on my credit cards, rarely receiving any honorarium for my talks. I go out of love for Our Lord and Lady and Holy Mother Church – and love for the souls who need to enter the Ark of the Catholic Church before it's too late.

My talks on such trips are always free, and I simply pray that those attending will buy enough of my tapes to enable me to recoup my expenses and hopefully have enough left over to support my wife and ten children. This apostolate is my full-time occupation and my sole source of income. Sometimes I sell enough to break even or even come out a little ahead, but often I don't, resulting in large outstanding balances on my credit cards.

Can you help? I need to pay for my next several trips now, but can't afford to put any more on my credit cards. If you could send me TODAY a one-time donation of \$100 (not tax-deductible) by check, money order, MasterCard, or Visa (please see accompanying response form), I could speak not only in these last 3 states but return to several others – including yours!

Some of you may be in a position to send more. A few individuals sending gifts of \$250, \$500, \$1000, \$5000 (or even more) compensate for all those who can only afford to give \$5, \$10, or nothing at all. Some of you may prefer to give a monthly amount, either by check or by specifying on the response form an amount you wish your credit card to be automatically debited each month.

Whatever you can give is deeply appreciated, will be used to bring souls into the Church, and will surely be rewarded by Our Lord not only here on earth but forever in heaven, where you will have the joy of seeing all those whom your sacrifices helped to bring there. My wife and nine (living) children and I will remember you – as we do all our donors – in our daily rosaries, and I'll keep you posted with regular progress reports on my travels and the results your prayers and gifts make possible.

Will you join me in making extraordinary sacrifices to bring America the authentic Catholic Faith and make these lands the Empire of her divine Son, as Our Lady of Guadalupe asked nearly 500 years ago? Upon our obedience to this heavenly mandate depends, not only the salvation of countless souls, but our very survival as a nation. Only God knows what He, in His Providence, has decreed for our wayward nation in the fateful days ahead.

In the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts,

Gerry Matatics, Founder & President

PS. My deadline is now upon me for booking and paying for my next several trips – including several exciting debates around the country, which I'll write to you about in my next letter. Thank you for letting me hear from you today!

DATE (*important!*): _____

RESPONSE FORM

Yes, Gerry:

I want to help Biblical Foundations International continue to tirelessly bring the authentic Catholic Faith to our spiritually impoverished nation, in obedience to Our Lady of Guadalupe's call, before it's too late! Keep me posted of new conversions & achievements.

(Please print all of the following legibly)

Name: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone numbers: Day: (_____) _____ - _____ Eve: (_____) _____ - _____

(If you have them) Fax: (_____) _____ - _____ E-mail: _____

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(Note: Foreign donors must pay in US funds drawn on US bank.)

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- ___ 2. What I've enclosed is the first payment of a monthly amount I'd like to donate.

If I indicated option #2 and I enclosed a check or money order, I'll send one in this amount each month; if I'm paying by Visa or MasterCard, I authorize you to charge my card in this amount at the end of each month.

Ways to send us your helpful and much-appreciated donation:

1. If paying by Visa or MasterCard, please do one of the following:
 - a) **Fax** this completed form to: (570) 969-1725, *or*
 - b) **Call** us at (570) 969-1724 and leave this information on our voicemail, *or*
 - c) **Scan and e-mail** this form as an attachment to: gmatatics@aol.com, *or*
 - d) **Mail** this form to: Biblical Foundations International, PO Box 569, Dunmore PA 18512 USA.
2. If paying by check or money order (payable either to "Gerry Matatics" or to "Biblical Foundations International"), please mail it, along with this form, to: Biblical Foundations International, PO Box 569, Dunmore PA 18512 USA. **(Again, foreign donors must pay in US funds drawn on a US bank.)**

Thank you and may God reward you for your generous and sacrificial charity!