

JOHN RICK MILLER IN THE HEART OF THE MISSION FOR THE LOVE OF GOD WORLDWIDE

By: Fr. Luis Orlando Corrales Murillo, m.x.y .

I met John Rick Miller in Panama, in a village called "Pacora", a community of very simple and humble people of Afro descendants where more than 400 years ago settled the so called Maroons who had liberated from the Spanish Crown. I lived among them for more than six years.

It was a night of full moon and that Moonlight, which eliminated the darkness of the night, had a premonitory significance: something new and of light would come to our poor parishes.

They told us, that a man named John Rick Miller of England was to speak to us of God. But we thought that was strange, as the brothers of the old world have gradually stopped talking of Him. Finally Mr. Miller arrived, the Church was crammed more of curious people than of believers. The gentleman was an imposing figure, tall, whose blue eyes mingled the serenity and tenderness that invited us to be vigilant. His hair and beard almost white as snow gave an air of grandfather and Patriarch.

Mr. Rick only spoke English, but from his mouth flowed a soft smile with a good evening in Spanish, as wanting to steal a smile and break with it, the ice of the encounter of two completely different cultures.

He spoke slow, articulated and impeccable in his words that aroused in the listeners, a vehement desire to listen to him. The Panamanian translator seemed to be in an empathetic tune with this Patriarch, as she reproduced accurately not only the words of wisdom but also their emotions and feelings that had echo in our hearts, who felt an unfathomable and infinite thirst to continue listening to him.

As a good Anglo-Saxon, he went to the point; he invited us first, to return to the love of God the eternal and merciful Father. He challenged us to wake up and to raise awareness of feeling "His very beloved children".

"We cannot expect others to change" – he said - for Rick, change should be taking place within ourselves. According to him, we are called to set out the path for God's mission, but we are still asleep and it is our duty to wake up and to truly realize "who we are".

A MAN OF SPIRIT AND OF THE CHURCH

Rick, always had an endearing love of the Church. He never ignored the Catholic hierarchy, always valued in him his sanity, education and finesse with the clergy, because before giving a teaching or catechesis on the Mission For the love of God Worldwide, he would ask the Bishop and priests for the respective approval. Moreover, he would invite them to a very close and fraternal dialogue.

Rick was valued and embraced in many dioceses in the world, but he could also put on a great spirit of humility, in certain environments of the Church, where he was sometimes misunderstood or not accepted.

An author used to say that "**the feast of the prophets is their own martyrdom**", it is not easy to knock on strange doors and being exposed to a response of the unpredictable: to feel the warmth of a smile and of the hands that welcome you, or to experience the coldness of indifference and rejection.

FROM THE CORPORATE METANOIA, TO THE ONE OF THE SPIRIT.

"Abraham left not knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8).

Rick humanly took a path that seemed farfetched for the corporate world and his family. An option that completely would change his world. He knew that in the material realm, lean and economic limitations would come as well as profound changes in his lifestyle. Rick, began the metanoia of the spirit, he let himself be seduced by the Mission For the Love of God Worldwide and embarked on an unknown world with a passport containing just the seal of Faith.

A EUCHARISTIC AND MARIAN MAN.

Only he who is at the foot of the master can dare to plunge into the deep waters of faith, a faith, that while it is true that moves in the deep trust in God, it also has something of darkness and uncertainty, as in the waters of faith, reason and human calculations do not provide a response. There is silence. Rick, entered the path of the Mystic, he knew that reason was not enough to scratch the mystery that surpassed him and let himself be immersed in intense contemplation moments as Saint Therese would say: "**A child does not understand what he loves and loves what he does not understand**".

It was in the intimacy where Rick could encounter with the Love of God. He had it clear and urged the churches to create perpetual adoration chapels to embrace and be embraced by the merciful Father who infinitely loves his children.

Mary has always been in Rick's heart, that woman "the full of grace" under the advocacy of Our Lady of Guadalupe to whom he entrusted his missionary work, being now the turn of his very beloved sons and daughters to continue with his legacy.

THE MISSION FOR THE LOVE OF GOD WITH SEAL OF CATHOLICITY.

The work fruit of the Holy Spirit, which accompanied Rick with great apostolic zeal, has the seal of Catholicity, i.e., it has no borders, no geographic boundaries. It is universal, and that means being of catholicity.

Their sons and daughters have great challenges to win credibility, acceptance and the charismatic place that corresponds to them in the Church. The works of the Spirit, which are born for the same purpose that were called, never end. The Mission For the Love of God Worldwide, cannot remain fragmented or registered in a portion of a particular church.

The mission being essentially Trinitarian, must be a community of faith that goes beyond the borders of any country or continent to consecrate and devote themselves entirely to the Mission of God.

Jesus, in the Gospel of John is emphatic in determining the credibility of his disciples in the world, *"In this they will know that you are my disciples, when you love one another"*. There are no missions in each country to our personal wishes, there is only one Mission of God worldwide.

THE FOUNDER LEFT TO STAY.

Rick lived to the fullest his own Metanoia at the end of his life. An irreversible cancer.

However, until the last moments he did not stop dreaming, he knew that his last dream was to embrace the infinite, he entered the door of eternity as Jesus, suffering terrible pain, a pain he offered as a balm to his Father who hugged him and received him to be forever in His paradise, which He had already prepared for him.