

Barranquilla. December 1th, 2020.

JOSÉ RODOLFO HENAO GIL, PhD.

Rector

Universidad del Atlántico (University of Atlántico)

God bless you,

The purpose of this letter is present my irrevocable resignation from the position of a tenured, full-time professor at the Universidad del Atlántico (University of Atlántico). The reasons for my resignation are the following:

I always thought that the most important thing was literature. For many years I searched anxiously for it, and I believed that writing poetry, publishing books, winning national awards, and reading many books could fill me up; I thought there was nothing else beyond that. And I got all this when I started a journey at a very young age in Monteria, then in Bogota, passing through Riohacha until my arrival in Barranquilla, Colombia.

I thought that man's wisdom was my everything, and the most important things were obtaining degrees such as masters and PhDs and producing papers to fill a resume and make a name for myself. Nevertheless, amid all this, I experienced an emptiness about the future because neither publications, titles, nor awards could certainly fill that emptiness.

I did not understand why I was experiencing that emptiness if, apparently, I had everything: recognition and a place among my colleagues and writers; but later, I understood that this emptiness was due to the fact that everything I had obtained was and is transitory because it is destroyed with time; it is the glory of men that vanishes like the flower of a day and even the physical body also fades away. The lack of the eternity of life was the emptiness I felt. That's why the emptiness disappeared when I met the One who overcame death and offered me the eternity of life. Christ, my Lord and Savior, is the eternity of life that has filled everything because He is the fullness Who fills all in all.

I knew then that the glory of men is vain, transitory, but the glory of God is eternal. I knew what it means to glory in understanding and knowing the living God. The overwhelming truth of the futility and transience of human knowledge and wisdom contrasted with the eternity of God's knowledge and wisdom confronted me. And now I am filled with the love and knowledge of God because I have understood that there is eternal life, and this life is found in Jesus Christ, the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

How wrong I was when I declared myself an atheist and agnostic! Of this, I have repented, and I still repent, because there is no greater sin than to deny the Author of life, the One who formed me with His hands, the One who gave me language and other faculties, which the human being has used to deny the God of life. This God of life was whom I met when I came to read the Bible,

which in the past I used to say was just another book of literature, something I also repent of because, in the Bible, the love of God has been revealed in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to give me eternal life.

Christ died for me and for all mankind who nevertheless deny Him, reject Him and mock Him. But the Lord Jesus Christ is the Almighty, worthy of all glory, worship, and praise. I did not know that the Bible was the revelation of God's love for salvation because I did not have the Holy Spirit, Who is also God and the Teacher. How can anyone understand the Bible if the heart is hardened and the mind darkened? And so I was, hardened and darkened for the haughtiness, pride, and arrogance when I said, "God does not exist" or "there is no evidence that he exists." How foolish and ignorant is the man who denies the God who created him!

I am resigning from the Universidad del Atlántico (University of Atlántico) because of a direct order given to me by the Lord God Almighty. I want nothing else but to obey and worship Him, and the time I have been in this University has been to testify of the King Jesus, to say that Christ is the only true God for calling people to repentance. And this is what I have done since I converted to Jesus, and I thank Him for His mercy to have chosen the Universidad del Atlántico (University of Atlántico) to teach His powerful Word that saves the lost soul from Hell. The Lord told me that His Holy Word is a torch that He lit at the University, a lamp with the fire of the Holy Spirit that has burned and will continue to burn for the salvation of many that I will see walking before His presence. And I rejoice and thank Him.

In Philippians chapter 3, the apostle Paul made a brief autobiography showing what he was, his recognitions, and his titles, and certainly, I could do this in this letter, but it is not necessary; what I do need to say is that: "what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ" (Philippians 3: 7-8).

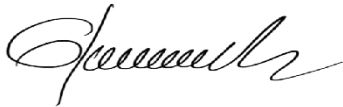
And this is the reason why I am resigning my position as a tenured, full-time professor at the Universidad del Atlántico (University of Atlántico); there is another reason, and that is that I have the firm conviction and certainty that Christ is already at the door. He is coming for His Church, of which I am part, and I shepherd by the mercy and grace of God. The Lord Jesus is about to take in the Rapture all those who believe and abide in Him and His Word, therefore "I desire to be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death" (Philippians 3: 9-10).

The power of Christ's resurrection is about to be manifested in those who have died believing in Him, and eternal life will be manifested, the victory over death that has afflicted mankind during these six thousand years that man has been on this Earth upon which the curse of sin weighs.

I renounce to the Universidad del Atlántico (University of Atlántico) because I want to press on to the goal, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me; and one thing I do now: forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. I leave behind me the University and man's wisdom because I have tasted the excellency of the knowledge and love of God, which is in Christ Jesus.

God bless you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel', written in a cursive style.

GABRIEL ALBERTO FERRER RUIZ
Tenured full-Time Professor.

Copy: Danilo Hernández (Vice Rector of Teaching), Luis Alarcón (Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences), Leonardo Niebles (Vice Rector of Research, Extension, and Social Projection), Luis Cárdenas (Director of the Postgraduate Department).