

400,000 IN SINGLE SERVICE HICKS' ARGENTINA CAMPAIGN SEES LARGEST EVANGELICAL SERVICE IN WORLD HISTORY

Healing and Revival Press 2018



Below is the record of an interview with Evangelist Tommy Hicks regarding the Argentina revival where between three and four million attended in thirty days.

GORDON LINDSAY:

Brother Hicks, we understand by the reports that in your recent meetings in South America, you have had the largest attended evangelical meetings in the history of the world. Could you tell us how you happened to go to South America in the first place?

TOMMY HICKS:

Brother Lindsay, it was over two years ago that God spoke to me while I was in prayer, and told me I would go to South America. That there, I would witness to a people that I could not number. That I would stand before leaders of great governments and testify for His name and for His glory, and that He would give me the desire of my heart. This has been fulfilled in the last four and a half months.

GORDON LINDSAY:

Your first meeting I understand was in Chile?

TOMMY HICKS:

Yes, our first meeting was in the Republic of Chile. We had no contacts there. We just went by the leading of the Lord. God led us in a miraculous way in each meeting we had. I had no particular plans, but felt led to go to the city of Temuco, Chile. As I went God went before me.

GORDON LINDSAY:

Can you tell us some of the particulars of the first meeting?

TOMMY HICKS:

Our first meetings were not held in a building or a stadium, but in an open plaza. It was an amazing thing how God gave us favor with the mayor and other government officials. No one turned a deaf ear to us, but seemingly every act was directed by God. The attendance on our first night was approximately 6,000. This increased to an audience of fifteen or twenty thousand people. God gave us a great meeting in Chile but it was only preliminary to what was to come.

GORDON LINDSAY:

You then decided to go over to Argentina?

TOMMY HICKS:

Yes, but let me tell you what happened when I was in a hotel room in Lima, Peru. In the wee hours of the morning I was awakened and the Spirit of the Lord was upon me. God seemed to speak to me and tell me that I was going to Buenos Aires. When that came to me I did not know exactly where Buenos Aires was. It was not until morning that I went to the ticket office of the air line to learn where it was.

When I arrived in Argentina I was prompted to see the President of the Republic

of Argentina, President Peron. Actually, until after I left Lima I did not know who the President of Argentina was. But while I was on the train between Lima and Santiago, Chile, the name of Peron came to me. When I got to Santiago, I asked who the President of Argentina was, and was told that it was President Peron. So after I got to Buenos Aires I decided I would see the President. God wonderfully and miraculously made it possible to have an interview with him. While in his office God gave me favor with him. After the interview I prayed with him. He was very receptive.

As you know, Brother Lindsay, there never had been any evangelical meetings of any size in Argentina. I asked Mr. Peron for three things. One was that I might have mass meetings in any part of Argentina that I wanted to go. I wanted access to the press and to the radio, which as far as I know, had not been granted to anyone before. Mr. Peron gave me permission to have interviews with the press or to speak on the radio as often as I wanted. I was also permitted to have mass meetings.



One page taken from the hundreds of pages published in the Argentina papers reporting the great campaign. In the above picture Mr. J. L. Navarro (right) top sports writer of Argentina relates the story of his miraculous healing.

GORDON LINDSAY:

How was this interview with Peron arranged? Did you just go up to the government offices, and make a request for an interview, or was there any circumstances or providences by which this came about?

TOMMY HICKS:

Perhaps there was a little something that did happen. We prayed for one of the guards and God wonderfully touched and healed him and that may have been one of the things that opened the way for us to get in. But omitting incidental details, we went directly to the office and made application, and within a very few minutes after it was made, we were told that an interview would be granted the next day. Such a favor is seldom ever given.

GORDON LINDSAY:

You regard this unusual and unique circumstance, in which you, an unknown person in the Republic was granted an immediate interview with President Peron, an internationally known figure, as a direct providence of God?

TOMMY HICKS:

I felt, Brother Lindsay, that it was Divinely ordered of God. As a result of this interview we never encountered one hindrance in anything that we wanted to do.

GORDON LINDSAY:

What was your impression of President Peron, when you were ushered into his presence?

TOMMY HICKS:

Very frankly, I can say that he was one of the finest, and kindest of men that I have ever met in all my life. He talked freely to me, and showed me every consideration and kindness. He spoke English very little, and had to speak mostly through an interpreter. But he informed me that he wanted to help me in every way that he could. At the close of the interview I had prayer with him, and we had a picture taken together. This picture went into all the newspapers of Argentina, and other South American Republics. When I left him I felt that I had been in the presence of an old friend. That is the way I felt.

GORDON LINDSAY:

Could you tell us anything about the nature of your conversation with him?

TOMMY HICKS:

Well, I was deeply impressed with his sincerity, and he seemed so willing to help me. He spoke very freely about his knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and told of his love for Him. He gave me his book THE PERON DOCTRINES. In this book he tells that Christ is the light of the world, and if the world is to march ahead, it must be done by embracing Christ.

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GORDON LINDSAY

He, of course, gave you some advice about the manner of your conducting of meetings, did he not?

TOMMY HICKS:

Yes, he told me that I could be free to preach the gospel, as long as I stuck to the Bible and did not mingle in politics, and other religions. As long as I preached the Bible, he told me that I would not be bothered in any way.

He told me of his spiritual and moral program for his republic. He showed me one of the ensigns he had placed upon all billboards. In his office was a large banner with this design. A huge torch lighted, and two hands joined together, one reaching and pulling the other hand of man upward. He also told of his rebuilding of the country of Argentina.

GORDON LINDSAY:

After you left the presence of Mr. Peron what was the first step that you took in your plans for revival?

TOMMY HICKS:

We called in the evangelicals of the city and met and talked with them. These men handled the organization. They made the plans and secured the stadium, the Atlanta Stadium, with an actual seating capacity of over 45,000. Actually 85,000 could stand on the seats. Altogether about a hundred thousand could get inside this football stadium.

Within two or three weeks the place was filled.

It was the miracles, night after night, that caused the crowds to increase. Every night the crowd increased except once, when there was a heavy rainstorm.

GORDON LINDSAY:

Could you tell us more about the miracles that took place?

TOMMY HICKS:

There were so many miracles that took place, that it is hard on the spur of the moment to single any out. There is one, however, that comes to my mind now, and it brings a tear to my eye. It was during the second half of the third week, that a little mother brought her three-year-old boy who had polio. I believe it was his right limb that was helplessly and hopelessly paralyzed, and he could not move it in any way, having a heavy brace upon it. One night after the great mass prayer, we prayed for everybody. We could not lay hands upon the people for there were so many. This mother knew that God had touched the child. So, although that morning when she had put the brace on the child, the leg was dangling helplessly, yet after the mass prayer, her faith was so great that she took the brace off and her child was able to walk. After she took the brace off, she brought the child to the platform, and thousands of people there saw it. Several doctors who were there examined the child. One doctor who knew the child, testified to the healing of it. That is just one of many.

From night to night, the highest officials of the government, senators and other congressional men were there in attendance. At length the Atlanta Stadium was not able to hold the people. So God opened up the Huracan Stadium which seats 185,000 people easily. The people thronged this stadium, jamming over 200,000 inside of it, and on one night just as many were on the outside. This audience no doubt was the largest revival audience in the history of the world.

(Next month, Brother Hicks will continue to tell the story of a revival that reached between three and four millions of people in four weeks time. In that issue we will show pictures of the tremendous audience that attended).

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