

The Jolleys

Serving the Spanish and English Speaking World
with Fellowship International

November 19, 2020

Dear Prayer Partners

Jesus asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough." - Luke 13:20

When we consider our current context of a global pandemic, we might think that Jesus could be talking about Covid-19. But of course, He was not. He was talking about the kingdom of God. God's kingdom is something that has come and continues to expand through this world until as Jesus said in another context: *"This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come"* (Mt. 24:14). Jesus encouraged our prayers and lives to be kingdom focussed to our world (Mt. 6:9-10).

As Ken has been coming alongside Spanish speaking servants globally and English speaking ones locally, it has reinforced his conviction that the kingdom of God best advances when common ordinary people, empowered by the Holy Spirit, live in obedience to Him. It has always been this way. It does not depend on a whole lot of resources, buildings, programs or tradition (as useful and beneficial as these are to kingdom advance). Rather, God's kingdom advances when common ordinary people give testimony and make God known through their obedient lives in word and deed in community. In each area of Ken's spheres of ministry this has become a common thread as we navigate a global pandemic for the glory of God.

As an academic mentor with *Immerse*, Colombian servants are capturing this. As they focus on empowering God's people, the kingdom is advancing in spite of not being able to congregate on Sundays. God's word is being studied in smaller community, they are leaning hard into the Holy Spirit, they are being faithful witnesses and kingdom citizens. The results: more kingdom focussed prayer, love extended into the surrounding community, unbelievers studying God's word, and a harvest is seen. These students are discovering that pastoring looks different in this context, but it is actually looking more like "equipping the saints for works of service" (Eph 4:12), as the body of Christ is engaging in kingdom service through their daily lives and spheres of influence. It is harder, as the pandemic brings so many unsettling challenges, and they actually have less control over what happens, but it is wonderful when God is at work through His people (Mk. 4:26-27).

In mentoring others, Ken has been coaching some in disciple making movements, using a discovery Bible study methodology. Wilcar and Marjorie in Colombia, Leo and Karina in Paraguay and Sergio and Lyn in Chile are on this journey. They are discovering the joy of opening up God's word with others who actually have hunger to discover God's word for themselves and to lean into the Holy Spirit as they do with a commitment to being obedient to everything God's says and to tell others about their journey. In each of these situations, we began this journey because of a concern for distorted teaching and teachers in the church. False teachers and teaching are the reasons these movements flourish, and the only antidote is if common ordinary people are well equipped themselves in knowing what God has actually said, instead of what pastors and teachers say it says. So, they are being equipped in how to apply 1 John 4:1-6. However, when common ordinary people have the authority of God's word as they lean hard into the Holy Spirit in community, God of course will use them to expand His kingdom, and that is what is beginning to happen.

Through *Simply Mobilizing resources* (simplymobilizing.outreach.ca) we are seeing the same happen. During 10 weeks, Ken and a facilitating team journeyed with 18 Spanish speakers in the Kairos course experience online as we examined God's kingdom mission of redemption biblically, historically and in real time in the opportunities of today. What a joy to see a change in heart focus of all 18 and to affirm them as

they committed to participating in God's mission to this world. Indeed, many realized that they do not need to travel to do this, but just needed to open their eyes to the mission field that God has brought to them in their places of work and communities.

Ken is currently doing the same, with 25 participants who are into week 5 of taking an English speaking Kairos course online here in Ontario. We appreciate your prayers as we enter into God's heart for all peoples in our world and discover our kingdom role in it. Besides the Kairos course, the Simply Mobilizing courses "The Unfinished Story" and "Empowered to Influence" are also available for you and your local church online or in small groups. Ken would love to hear from you if you are interested.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership as we continue to seek to equip and encourage servants for service in God's kingdom, particularly amongst the Spanish speaking world. Do continue to pray as Jesus encouraged us to do, to pray for more labourers to serve in the harvest that is in our world (Mt. 9:36-39). Pray that God would continue to give us wisdom and grace as we fulfill His call upon our lives to help fill this need for more labourers. God's kingdom advances when common ordinary people live in faithful obedience to Him with their lives.

Your partners in the gospel of the kingdom,



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