

The Jolleys

Serving the Spanish and English Speaking World
with Fellowship International

March 26, 2021

Dear Prayer Partners

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. – Jesus (John 12:24).

In our corner of Ontario spring is the air. It is always a special time. After the coldness of winter, when the existence of life itself seems to be threatened, we realize that life is still there all along and new life is a reality. We thought things were dead, but they really are not. However, as Jesus observed, some things need to die, in order for there to be reproduction. Winter is part of producing new life so that even more fruit can happen.

Our celebration of Easter reminds us of the same. What God has accomplished through Christ reminds us that what we thought was death actually is not. New life is real because of God. However, it takes encountering hardship and death in order to produce, let alone experience new life and even more fruit.

The same is true of our global pandemic. God has always used plagues to purge and purify. It continues to be a journey in which we are not out of the woods yet, but as we have walked with others in hearing what God has been saying to our world and His people, it is amazing what you see God do. You may have seen this acronym for COVID: **Christ Orchestrating Very Interesting Developments**.

One of Ken's Immerse students in Colombia recently wrote:

"The pandemic and virtual platforms have brought growth and we are being intentional about it. As we have focussed on small groups and obedience to the Great Commission of making disciples growth is happening. The Lord has moved us to make this our emphasis and we are seeking to strengthen His focus through us." – Yaneth Guerrero

It really has been a blessing to walk with others who have not had a "let's just hold on and get through this pandemic by God's grace perspective", but rather, "God what would you have us to do in what you are doing?" A heart that is already set on obedience bears fruit for God's kingdom. When you do that winter, a pandemic, or the death of Christ are not what they seem to be. Some of the greatest challenges though are recognizing and allowing the things that need to die in order for there to be new life.

Over the last several months, this has been the journey. Transitions to different expressions and focusses of local churches in Latin America and locally come with many challenges and potential pitfalls. Some of the things that need to die are actually in the hearts and minds of disciple makers, let alone in those in which they are seeking to disciple. But this too is what God does for even greater fruit and manifestation of His kingdom through His church. We grow as God seeks to produce more fruit for His kingdom.

So while Ken coaches in using discovery bible study methodologies and principles, and unbelievers are being disciplined towards faith in Christ, with baptisms and opportunities for gracious acts of love abound, we too are changed in order to see all of this happen. Some things need to be let go of while others need to be put to death, in order to promote and experience God bringing new life and more fruit. In all of it, the kingdom of God is here and made known through the lives of common ordinary people who live in obedience to Him.

We always need illumination of God's wisdom and grace. Thank for your prayers for:

- Ken as he continues to mentor Immerse students in Colombia, S.A.
- Pray for Immerse students Wilcar, Yaneth and Omar as they are seeking to lead churches and ministries whose focus is making obedient disciples.
- Mary Ann as she mentors Marjorie, a mother of a young family and pastor's wife, who is studying at the Seminario Bíblico in Medellin, Colombia
- Ken has been invited to facilitate the training and mentoring of other mentors with Immerse Latin America. Pray for the team of Northwest Baptist Seminary as they seek God's illumination in formalizing what this should look like.
- Other mentoring and coaching relationships as they relate to disciple making. Particularly for Leo & Karina (Paraguay), Sergio y Lyn (Chile), Rafael, Nayades, Tatiana, Reinaldo, Erica (Miami) and churches locally in Ontario.
- For Nelson (Venezuela) and Belkys (Venezuela) as they are seeking God to direct their steps as they consider significant transitions in their service in God's kingdom.
- For opportunities for Simply Mobilizing resources as they are part of how God is bringing renewal to local churches who are being used of God in their communities and beyond.

So great to be part of **Christ Orchestrating Very Interesting Developments.**

Your partners in the gospel of the kingdom,



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