

2013 July Colombia Recap

To Family, Friends, and Supporters,

February 28, 2013

A recap of our activities and God's great out pouring upon the people of Medellin, Colombia.

(Rev. Mike, Pastor Nehil, Hannah and Dennis)

Wednesday This morning we attended a city wide pastors meeting and a young man during worship did the most beautiful dance unto the Lord...it reminded me of how King David may have danced when he celebrated the return of the ark to Jerusalem...I was also impressed with the lead pastor and another who had become estranged declaring reconciliation, repentance and forgiveness in front of all the other pastors...later that night I sent this home... "All is going well...the teachings are very well received...the local meals are very good...the next three days will be very busy...teaching in morning and nights...about 14 pastor and church leaders road buses 10 hours to get here...all of them are being hosted and cooked for in homes of church members...went into town...to get our teeth checked...many shops like older Singapore and people selling in the open areas on the street...Ruth this is your kind of shopping and people gazing..."

Thursday Last night was the first session and I (Dennis) taught about how King David is our example to follow...not because of breaking all ten of the commandments but the one thing he can teach us about repentance...seems to have gone very well...David is our example to follow because of his humble heart towards God...a man named Alex told me that he was very touched by the teaching and I asked him if he was a Christian and he said no because he could not trust enough...I asked if he was ready to repent and he said no because he needed to trust more...I then told him that he was very close to the Kingdom and that he just need to love God...Hannah sent this email..."I might not want to come home...just kidding"... "We finally just settled into the local man's brother's house. They were kind enough to let us into their home. The church is right across the street and we have to get up at 8 tomorrow for a pastors meeting. Now Dad and Mr. Mike want to go out ... and I'm tagging along. Wish us luck!"

Friday This morning the teaching was focused on the need to follow Christ's example of forgiveness...at the mid-day break our host pastor Nehil took us on the elevated train system to see both the rich and poor of the 3.4 million people living on the Medellin mountains...like the locals, we road on a sky gondola from the train to the top of a mountain peek...very beautiful vistas and interesting to see how people live on the sides of mountains...the elder pastor, Olimpo, gave me a Spanish English bible and hopes I will learn SPANISH...last night we had many people come forward for prayer...a young boy about 10 (Diego Salazar) came with his mom and daughter to get healed from brain cancer...we prayed and the Holy Spirit came down upon him...his father was not their but came later and became a Christian....during this same time I was talking to a man named Alex who had come two nights earlier...and he was ready to love Jesus and repent of his sins...he proclaimed Christ as his saviour...the wife (Gilma) and daughter of Pastor Olimpo asked for prayer and to receive anointing for their ministry...Rev. Mike and I prayed for a man that pastors near the jungle near Panama where the indigenous Columbians live... Juilmer Castro wanted prayer to receive gifts of healing and deliverance from the holy spirit...he was told that God may choose to make Him a martyr for Christ.

Saturday In the morning I planned to teach how to break and renounce generational sins and curses...I was not sure how it would be received...many pastors/leaders prayed for the release from demonic hereditary curses while I was teaching them how to teach others...it became a great refreshing and cleansing from the Holy Spirit...many said that was the high light of the week and they would be taking this lesson back to their church...after the morning teaching, Rev. Mike and I were able to get our teeth cleaned, fixed and whitened by one of the sisters in the church...for lunch we ate local fried chicken and a fried vegetable called Yutan...it was very good. We walked around town and did a little shopping...it was sad to see that one could purchase video porn from a vendor within 10 feet of walking into church...I asked the pastor with us who he thought controlled that area and he said the Devil...I thought so too...in the evening I taught on how to change God's way and that we must come to God humble like the tax collector and not like the proud Pharisee...afterward Pastor Dario and I meet with a Christian man who had a curse of witchcraft placed upon him...his grandfather had practiced witchcraft...we were able to pray for liberty from a couple spirits but could not complete the deep healing that was necessary so we decided to meet with him the next day...Hannah is our documentarian...taking many pictures...tonight she went out with four young woman from church to the local arcade at the mall...God is pouring out His spirit upon these pastors....most of them come from very poor regions...one is a farm/pastor who shows the indigenous how to farm and then teaches them about Jesus...another pastor is a former retired government working who is using his business skills with Christian principles to reach those in business...two woman have youth ministries to the poor in their villages...the average travel time by bus was about 10 hours and cost them \$50...this is about 30% of the average monthly wage...so the who came to hear us teach were the very committed and faithful...they are living examples of the "tent maker" ministry demonstrated by the Apostle Paul...Hannah has not done anything with the kids yet...maybe Sunday...but has seen God's love work and sacrifice of others.

Sunday Today was a very powerful move of God...we taught and prayed for people from 9am until 8pm...it has been my closet experience to what the apostle Paul talked about how people had packed the house so full that a person, who had fallen asleep, fell from the window...the church was so full that many had to listen from outside...I taught the early Sunday School session about the parable of the four hearts...at least one man was saved and many were challenged to live with whole hearted towards God...the children performed a dance to the Lord...afterward Hannah took 50 kids to a local soccer field...they had to transport them by cars and I have never seen so many pack into so few automobiles...Rev. Mike preached about how "A Live Dog is better than a Dead Lion"...this put us past 1pm and still had one more exhortation to give about how God Qualifies the called out ones...Rev. Mike and I shared how God moved us into ministry and that God would do the same for them...we were then asked to participate in the commissioning of 5 house church pastors and afterward we were presented "thank you sombreros" and "ministerial rings" that demonstrated their acceptance of our teachings and willingness to travel to Medellin...it was close to 3:30 and time for lunch...the overseers wife and woman from the church had spent the previous day preparing food for about 200...it was rice, meat and plantain served in a large leaf...once again this was very good...after lunch many of the leaders who were leaving came forward for prayer...I had to make it back to the apartment and meet with pastor Dario to continue prayer for Ferney, the man from the day before who was demon oppressed...I had given this man some specific prayers before coming which made our prayers for liberation easier...his name was Ferney a young man in his early 20s was saved 3 years ago...he cried out to God a week ago to send someone to help him...I am glad that those who supported all of us through finances and prayer sent us...after a few prayers Ferney was set completely free, clean and healed from the oppression...we then went to a local grocery store for a Coke and after sitting down outside we were approached by a man wanting \$...he said he needed food...we could tell he was probably between his crack cocaine fix...within a few minutes another man named Oscar came towards us crying out for help and freedom from his own crack addiction...he was holding a crack pipe and a lighter...Pastor Dario started to pray and minister to this wild man and after fifteen minutes of prayer...I was asked to talk to him and asked if he wanted to be better...he said yes...I told him he needed Jesus...and he said yes...I then said he need to repent and he said yes...Amen...the other man who approached us first only wanted only food and \$...he would not repent...he did not want to come with us to the church...and after the Pastor bought him some food he quickly left...this is very similar to the story of the two thieves who died along side Christ...one cries out for mercy, like Oscar, and the other wants God on his own terms...Please continue pray for Oscar's continued liberation, faith and healing...(The local pastor was unable to drive him to the rehab clinic so Oscar went by bus to meet his daughter...)

Monday This morning the wife of the elder pastor made us breakfast as we asked for Elder Olimpo's thoughts and God's desire for Medellin, Columbia, and all of the S. America...he was very glad with us in helping his people see the difference between a good team and a great team...he would like to have more Praxis of ministry and anointing of the word...maybe we could consider help with some kind of leader training school that would be tied to continued education and God's vision for all His people...maybe through trips...like going to Turbo, Colombia or through the internet using SKYPE or something else...he was very happy with the spiritual encouragement and the emphasis on the family...mucho gracious...he said...we then traveled to remote area for some Sabbath rest with the lead pastor's family and found out that the husband, who had many bullet wounds, had been in a gang that would carry out assassinations...God saved him one night through a dream but he needed to break away from this gang of murders...soon after he was told to carry out a contract...to go kill someone...he turned it down but his friend took the hit job and was eventually tortured, killed, and dismembered...God saved him many times while he was seeking Him, when the gang new he wanted to leave they confronted him by threatening and pointing pistols at his head...he said he would not return...and a member from the gang said OK and then left alone...We then prayed for him that God would heal his physical and psychological wounds and give him a heart to reach the many young men who are in gangs before they too die at a young age.

Tuesday Returning today from Colombia...God moved powerfully...many were saved...the church was challenged...and demons were cast out...God is very good...thanks to all of you prayed for us the past week...This morning Pastor Dario, who gave up his home for us, delayed going to work so that he could tell us a dream he had that morning...It was like a river flowing to other countries and people groups...He prayed for me and told me God had a new anointing for me and that all would know it...He prayed for Hannah and told her that God knows her heart and it like His...her great compassion she has to help and care for others is from Him...she will use her heart to love others in order to tell them about Christ's love for them...she must guard her heart and keep it safe and that God will giving her the gift of healing (he said this 3 times) and that she will have a prophetic voice...(I, as her father, agreed with these encouraging words...two days earlier she had give all the money she had raised as a free will offering to the local church). We were brought to the airport by the Sr. Pastor and the Elder Pastor...they both took the 90 minute bus ride so that we would have enough room in the car...good thing because Rev. Mike...miss booked his return flight by one month and had to reschedule for the next day...he returned to Medellin to spend another day with 85 degrees weather and great food...I did not feel a bit sorry for him.

The Rev. Mike, Pastor Nehil, Hannah, and I want to send our deepest heartfelt gratitude to all of you that contributed either through finances and/or prayer...YOU made this mission possible...those that prayed we felt your prayers while ministering...God heard and used your prayers to extended His graces, mercies, and blessing upon the pastors, leaders, and church in Medellin, Columbia. Hannah

mentioned after we got home...that this was the best trip she has ever been on...I asked her why and she said it was the people of Medellin, because they were different...I again asked: Why are they different? She said: "Because they serve and love each other because they want to and not because they have to." Wow...she was now preaching to me!!!

Pictures: <http://s11111.beta.photobucket.com/user/rd2nelson/library/Medellin%20Feb%202013%20Church>

YOU have been a big part of this outpouring of God's Spirit and will have an eternal share in God's reward. THANK YOU!

Next Steps?

I do not know what tomorrow will hold...but we have been asked to pray about making a commitment through Mission River for continued educational support...the pastors and leaders are asking that we provide or produce theological training in Spanish that they can take back to their leaders...I also have been asked by an Columbian English teacher that he would be willing to translate my men's devotional and workbook "Changing God's Way" into Spanish...and requested some financial help to do the translation, because of his job situation...if any of you would like to continue with financial support or contribute for the book translation...send me an email and I will give you the details.

Both Hannah and I have been changed and are grateful that God chooses to use us. May we humbly continue in His will.

Specific prayer needs:

- Continued prayer for the hearts and minds of all those that attended the seminars...that they would grow in God's graces and faith. (I personally prayed for two men to receive Christ, but heard of a couple more that made decisions.)
- How and when should the Mission River team be involved with the Church in Medellin? (They have asked that we come back this summer or fall and go to a remote costal area of "Turbo," a lot of the pastors are nearby...
- How and what type of Theological studies should Mission River provide?
- Please cover the following with prayer that were mentioned above...the young boy with brain cancer...Ferney, Oscar, and Alex with prayers of protection and for the peace from God that surpasses all our understanding...I will do the same.

POTENTIAL FUTURE OBJECTIVES

1. To return to an area called Turbo. Some of the Pastors from this area asked us (Mission River etc.) to return and come to their area. Turbo is a community in the north of Columbia close to the Panama border. The area west of Turbo is called the "black coast" which is an area controlled by the drug cartel. Many of the Pastors in this area lack any sort of training or support due to the hostile area in which they reside. Turbo would be the closest (secure) area we could get to and they in turn would have the Christian leaders and Pastors from the Black Coast join us there. It should also be noted that it is costly and dangerous to travel for such an undertaking.

2. To develop or utilize a developed curriculum to provide on-going quarterly training in theology, leadership development, and church planting. This could possibly be established in Medellin as a test project and then expanded to other Countries in South and Central America. The objective would be to provide training to Pastors and church leaders who would then provide this training to other Pastors and church congregations. (If you have any suggestions for curriculum this would be appreciated.)