



RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

Greetings from Chattanooga, TN where God has graciously provided for us to return for our furlough. I must confess that when we had to leave Venezuela in March, it was difficult to leave our hearts in Venezuela, yet now that we are here in the U.S. I see God's purpose in His timing. On April 4, my grandmother passed away. I will never forget when we left for Venezuela 4 years ago kissing her cheek and saying goodbye. I cried then thinking that it would be the last time I would see her. God graciously brought us home to bid farewell to her earthly body. She was a prayer warrior and prayed for us constantly. It was an honor to share the gospel at her gravesite service. Then, last week we had an unexpected family emergency when my dad suddenly presented symptoms of a stroke. His speech was slurred, he could barely walk, he was hallucinating, and he seemingly had lost his strength. They ran blood tests, MRI's, etc. and the final conclusion was an excess of calcium in his system. I went to sit with him for several hours a day nearly every day last week. It was not until Friday morning that he began showing solid signs of improvement. He is home now and back to being Dad. They have not isolated the exact cause of his elevated calcium, so please pray. Again, for me this was a hug from God allowing me to be here during a time that my family needed me.

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

The Great Commission is about making disciples. That work does not begin and end with evangelization. It begins with evangelization and continues with intensive discipleship. The purpose is to solidify a solid doctrinal foundation in the life of the new believer and give them a biblical framework with which to guide them through their process of growth and sanctification. This past week has been a tremendous encouragement to us as we have been contacted by believers in Venezuela. Those whom we discipled are continuing the process of discipleship in the life of others. What a joy to know that the emphasis we put on discipleship has continued and more and more people are coming to a saving knowledge of Christ. Not only that, they are being guided on their next steps of growth. Those new disciples will be taught to disciple others and the process continues. We can actually say that God has given us an international ministry because a family that we discipled intensively left the country and they are now in Chile evangelizing. Just this week Javier sent me three names to pray for. At least once a month Javi writes me and thanks our family for the time invested in them and we praise God because they are investing in others.

FURLOUGH AND FINANCIAL NEEDS

We have two financial goals in this next to final paragraph. First is that we are trying to raise money to pay for the church building in Venezuela. It is actually a house that is very strategically located and there is a tremendous outreach opportunity in that particular community. The owner is asking \$7500 for the house. We would love to raise \$10,000 to give them some wiggle room for repairs. We need to have the money in by **THE END OF JUNE 2019**. Any gift is tax deductible and goes 100% toward the purchase of the building. Secondly, we are beginning our furlough reporting stage of our time home. We already have several meetings on the calendar and we are looking to schedule as many as possible. We have openings in our schedule beginning in August 2019 through March of 2020. Secondly, we also need to raise some additional support and would love if you all could help us with any referrals you may have. Our tentative goal is to return to Venezuela in the spring of next year. If you are interested in scheduling a furlough meeting with us please contact us with your available dates and we can compare calendars to see if we have openings for those dates as well.

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you hardly seems enough. The spiritual fruit being harvested is fruit to your account. We thank all of you for your faithfulness as you have both supported us financially and prayerfully. We left Venezuela under politically volatile conditions and it is such a blessing to know that we have a solid group of supporters who are concerned with both our physical and spiritual wellbeing. Thank you for your faithfulness. Even though we are currently absent from Venezuela, lives are still being transformed for the glory of God.

Please Prayerfully Remember:

- Prayer for the financial needs.
- Political change in Venezuela

The Sykes