

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Summer Update

The beginning of the month of June was a HUGE blessing in terms of ministry. Since the protests had calmed down quite a bit, we were able to visit 2 different local congregations in Colombia. We were also able to visit various families in the neighborhood that we are planting the church. We are still praying for the day that we will be able to start our large group gatherings in person. We are so hopeful that things will continue to calm down and that ministry opportunities will continue to arise.

This summer, God blessed us with the opportunity to visit the United States. During this trip my family was able to meet Eliana, we attended my brother's wedding, and we dedicated Eliana in my home church in Colorado. These special times have filled our hearts and provided new strength for the future as we plan to return to Colombia at the end of August.

In addition to our time with family and friends, we have also had time to visit churches, small groups, and individual supporters. We have already visited 9 churches, 6 small groups, and more than 15 individuals and families. It has been such a joy to give account to all that God is doing in Colombia and we are so excited to see how He continues to move in Bogota.

We wanted to start this letter off praising God for all that He has done and is doing. Just last week we were having dinner with some friends and they challenged us to write down the ways that we have seen God working, the prayers He has answered, and the numerous blessings that He has poured out. These friends encouraged us to write it all down so that when we hit a "valley" in life, we could look back and remember God's love, mercy, and faithfulness. Since dinner that night with friends, we have done just that. We began to recall all that God has done since Andrés and I met on the mission field in 2017. As we began storing up these memories of God's goodness, we had no idea that we would so soon be entering into a valley where we would desperately need to cling to the Lord. Just 4 days after beginning this exercise, we received a call from Bogota that our apartment had been broken into and ransacked. Andres and I looked at each other in disbelief as we heard the news.

Now, two days since that original phone call, we are finding more ways to praise God in this storm. We praise God for Andrés' family who were able to get to our apartment so quickly and help us take photos and videos so we could file a police report. We thank God that due to the events of the past year, police reports can now be filed online. We thank God for his family's willingness to keep watch over our apartment until we could get bars put back on the window (the robbers cut through various bars in order to get in). We thank God for keeping us all safe and that nobody was hurt during the break-in. Honestly, the list goes on and on of the things we can praise God for. This doesn't change the fact that we are currently in a bit of an emotional valley as we process all that has happened, but it

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does help us to remember that what happened doesn't change who God is or what he has done and is doing.

We know that going back home to an apartment that is in shambles will not be easy. Two days later as I write this our hearts still ache. We feel violated. We feel angry and hurt. Those feelings won't go away quickly. We won't know the extent of all that is missing until we get home, and it hurts a little more with each thing that we realize is gone. We know they are "just things," but it is still hard to know that they are gone. As we mentioned, we have so much to thank God for, and His protection over us and our family is at the top of that list. For anyone that has gone through or is going through a valley, remember that it is ok to hurt. Just don't let that hurt pull you away from God. He is with us. He sees us. He knows and understands our hurts better than anyone else.

We are hurting, but we are also choosing to continue to praise God in this storm and we wanted to take a moment to share with you a list of some of the praises from the past month.

- We took part in my brother's wedding.
 - Eliana met her grandparents, aunts, uncles, great-grandpa, and great-aunt.
 - We found out that my sister is going to have a baby boy. (I'm going to be an aunt!)
 - God blessed us with much needed time with family and friends.
 - We met 2 fellow missionary families who will soon be serving in Latin America.
 - We had the privilege of sharing what God is doing with churches, family, and friends.
 - We are all safe and in great health.
 - Churches and small groups in 5 different states have met with us and joined with us in prayer for the nation of Colombia.
 - A metal worker was able to replace the bars on our window in less than 24 hours.
 - We have the ability to make calls internationally so that we can communicate with entities in Bogota.
- Our hope is that we can continue to focus on these praises even as we walk through this storm.

Prayers:

- For peace and strength as we continue processing what has happened and prepare to return home.
- That we will be able to find a new apartment (in a better neighborhood and within our budget) when we return to Bogota.
- For continued protection as we travel in the USA and return to Colombia.

Praises:

- For God's protection.

For additional updates, find us on YouTube. Simply search "Barreto Family." You can also find Bible videos by searching "Bible with the Barretos."



What an incredible blessing to be able to dedicate our daughter, Eliana, in my home church in Colorado. This day was made extra special because the pastor who dedicated Eliana was my former children's pastor. The day was made extra special as Pastor Darell honored my husband by sharing a portion of the dedication in Spanish.

It was a joy to visit AFO church in South Carolina and reconnect with friends and supporters. It is always a joy to be able to share what God is doing in Ecuador through the IReach project and in Colombia with World Reach. Giving testimony of all God is doing encourages our hearts for future ministry as well.



While at my parent's house in Missouri, we had the pleasure of attending a few church services. Attending services in person was such an encouragement for our hearts and souls. This time has been a blessing from God.

We were also encouraged as we heard another missionary share how God has used and continues to use his family in ministry.



If you are interested in supporting our ongoing ministry financially with either monthly or one-time giving you can do so in a few different ways.

1) By going online to <https://world-reach.org/> and clicking on "Donate Now" then select "Andrés and Kayla Barreto."

2) You can also mail checks, with "Andrés and Kayla Barreto" in the memo line, to:

World Reach, Inc.
P.O. Box 26155
Birmingham, AL 35260

(Checks should be made out to World Reach)

3) The third option is through an EFT automatic withdrawal.

Visit the website for more information on donating. <https://world-reach.org/en/donate/>

