

It has been three months since this new stage as a missionary began and there are many anecdotes that I would like to share where only God and His grace are the protagonists, but one of the most significant was having the opportunity to make my first trip as an official missionary of World Reach.

I made the trip with Robert Wilson, Simon Florez, and Anderson Naranjo, great friends, and brothers with whom over the years I have had the opportunity to serve with and grow in the Lord. We visited a church in San Pedro de Urabá, Colombia, and while it has been affected by armed conflict, nothing has been an impediment for the good news of God to transform lives for His glory. This visit was the result of a 6-year-old work in which God has used missionaries to work in the revitalization of this church. To know the history and to be an eyewitness of the growth that God has granted to this community and to contribute to God's kingdom was a privilege.



The objective of the trip was to encourage and strengthen the church and the different groups within the church. I was blessed to teach the women, youth, and children.

WOMEN

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. - Psalm 119:8



I taught the women how to study the Bible in an inductive way through the letter to Titus. Working with them was a challenge, because it was the first time that I was the teacher instead of being the translator or trainee. How true it is that God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours and that He has works prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Throughout this study, it was wonderful to see women learning to study the Bible for themselves and to take the truths found to their daily life. That's what it's all about...the impact of the Gospel in our lives, from the Bible to life.

These kinds of experiences make my passion for women to learn, embrace, and appropriate God's written revelation grows more and more each day. In just a few days, this group of 50 women captivated my heart and I hope that God will provide another time to grow together in the knowledge of God as we are transformed into the image of the Beloved, the Sufficient One.





One of the attendees, Angelly, was an 11-year-old girl. I was amazed by her reading comprehension, participation, and dedication to complete the study. At the end of the study, her grandfather came up to me and said, "Maria, I want to thank you for this time, because it has been an impact, and Angelly told us that she wants to be a missionary like you." I am still impacted by such an affirmation; it was not me, but the grace of God in me. I pray for this little one that our God will help her to persevere in every stage of her life so that she may live for His glory.

YOUTH

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. -Psalm16:11

Simon, Anderson, and I had the opportunity to share with the youth group how to live our life for the glory of God during different life stages: singleness, dating and marriage. Having as a fundamental truth that only in Jesus we find our identity and satisfaction. It was a great time!



CHILDREN

he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" - Jhon 5:6b



Finally, the time with the children was also wonderful. We had time to get to know each other, play, pray, and talk about the encounter Jesus had with a man at Bethesda Pool. We discovered that during his condition of physical and spiritual need he was able to understand that Jesus is all he needed, a truth that is applicable to us as well.

After all this, I can only join Paul when he says in Romans 11:36:
"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

For His glory,

María Vélez

PRAYER REQUEST

- For maintaining delight in God in the midst of ministerial activities.
- For knowing Christ better.
- For efficiency in time management.
- For the group of women from a vulnerable community in the outskirts of Medellin that God has given me the opportunity to work with in the last few months (updates coming soon).

Want to become a partner in Ministry?

Please make checks or electronic funds payable to:
World Reach P.O. Box 26155, Birmingham, AL 35260
Include a note with your donation indicating your desire to support the ministry of *María Vélez*

Questions?
Call 205-967-2400 or email info@world-reach.org