

MARIA VÉLEZ

PRAYER LETTER

Greetings from Medellin, Colombia! I have been looking forward to updating you for a long time. Here are highlights that I would love to share with you of what God has been doing in the last few months of ministry.

“HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR.” - FROM MAT 13:1-9



God gathered approximately fifty teenagers/young people to listen to the Gospel for three days at a youth camp in June. God gave me the privilege to teach workshops with the girls about the vanity of life and the sufficiency found in Jesus. The days with them reminded me of the parable of the Sower that Jesus told. Each heart is like a different field, each one with a different background. Among the attendees were believers and non-believers. Some had depression and suicide attempts, some had family abuse, drug trafficking, promiscuity, etc. and all of them received the precious seed that can transform their stories.

It is our prayer that the good seed fell on good fields. We trust in God's sovereignty to overthrow any stronghold and bring salvation, restoration, and redemption to the lives of these boys and girls. If you want to know some of the testimonies of this time you can go to YouTube and type this URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2A_A82qLu4U. This generation is wounded in the deepest areas of its identity. Only Jesus can restore them to live a life of purpose. Let us not cease to pray for the younger generation.

“...LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US, LOOKING TO JESUS, THE FOUNDER AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH,” - FROM HEB 12:1-2

At the end of July, the World Reach missionaries in Latin America gathered for the conference: Finding Rest in Ministry. It was ten days of fellowship, confrontation, encouragement, and rest. It was the first time I attended this conference, and it was a blessing to talk with people who for years have run the race of ministry faithfully. As a young woman who has only been officially in full time ministry for 1 year, it was very inspiring. We received uplifting teachings from biblical counselors and missions' pastors, all pointing to our care and the care of others in ministry.



Please **pray** for every World Reach missionary in Latin America and the world; that we run this race with perseverance and faithfulness over a little and over much, and that we finish it well, for God's glory.

**“THE FEAR OF MAN LAYS A SNARE, BUT WHOEVER TRUSTS IN THE LORD IS SAFE.”
PROV 29:25**



In September, I had the opportunity to share with two groups of sisters (in my local church and another church) one of the issues that God has worked on my heart: The Fear of Man. How many times have we allowed our emotions, thoughts, and actions to be governed by other people instead of God? How many times has our desire for approval and acceptance become a need and that need a demand?

All experiences of the fear of man have one common feature: people are big. They have gone from being the ones we love and serve to the ones we worship and need. They control us. Since there is no room in our hearts to worship both God and people, whenever people are big, God is not. Therefore, the first step in escaping the snare of the fear of man is to have the right perspective of who God is, of who we are, and who other people are. We can only find these answers in the Scripture, our source of Truth.

Sharing with both groups was a perfect opportunity for us to recognize together:

- *Our heart is an idol factory*
- *Our need for repentance*
- *Our need to know God more deeply in the face of Jesus Christ and preach the gospel to ourselves every day.*

Here are praises and prayer requests that I would like to share with you.

- **Praises:**

- The Spanish Grammar and Spiritual Biblical Disciplines written, and audiovisual materials were successfully completed by the team.
- I received my certificate of approval for the first level of Biblical counseling. I am excited about what God wants to do in this area.
- After a year of working with three other sisters, we have finished a study for women about who God is. It was a privilege to collaborate in the development of one of the lessons in this project.

- **Prayer Requests:**

- For my health, lately my defenses have been low, and I have had bad colds very often.
- For two young girls who have asked me for help in counseling. May the Lord grant me His wisdom to guide them through His Word and open their hearts to receive what God has for them.
- To faithfully continue my training process in Biblical counseling and Christian ministry.

By grace alone,

María Vélez

If you would like to partner with a one-time gift or recurring monthly gifts to provide the support we must raise for the mission of World Reach to serve in Colombia, here is more information on how to do so:

To *donate online*, go to world-reach.org/donate to give once or set up a monthly gift via credit card. We also offer the option to give monthly via an Electronic Funds Transfer from your bank account. This is our preferred method because you will incur no third-party processing fee, and the transfer can be set up by going to world-reach.org/donate and clicking on “EFT Giving” at the top of the page.

To *give by check* made payable to World Reach, mail to the address below with a note indicating your preference for supporting "María Velez ministry": World Reach P.O. Box 26155 Birmingham, AL 35260-0155