

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 The Power of Prayer

God is SO good! Over these last 2 months, we have seen God work and move here in Colombia. He has answered so many prayers (some that we have been praying for over a year now!!!). Although there are tons of answers to prayers that I could share, I want to focus on a few.

Our New Church Space

The first prayer, we have been praying for over a year now. In January of 2020 (just a few months before the world turned upside down) we began planting a church in Bosa. We started in the local park and when the pandemic started we began visiting over 30 families house-to-house each week. In October of 2021, we were able to start meeting in-person again in the local park. Our prayer since 2020 has been to be able to reach these kids, teens, AND their families with the gospel.

Since 2020, most of our ministry has been focused on the kids and teens and we had not seen much interaction from parents. However, since God blessed us with the ability to rent an apartment as a church space, we have been able to host Thursday night prayer meetings. So far this has allowed us to share the gospel with the parents of 5 different families. We are praying that God will continue to grow this time and allow us to continue to pour into the lives of the parents.

Not only did God bless us with a place to meet, but He has also provided many opportunities to reach out to the parents of these kids and teens.

I didn't stab him... because...

In February we began weekly soccer tournament games as a hook to get the teens to attend youth group. They created teams and have been competing in soccer games and in youth group points. In June or July we will give medals to the tournament winners. They have also been earning youth group points as a team for attendance, memorizing verses, and completing their discipleship pages. The winning team of the youth group points will be rewarded with donuts for the team on the day that we hand out medals to the winners of the soccer tournament. These soccer games and points have helped us to have more consistency and attendance with the youth!

Last Saturday, Andrés was reffing a tournament game and throughout the whole game he felt an overwhelming need to pray... so, he did. At the end of the game, one of the players came up to him and said, "hello teacher, I wanted to let you know that I didn't shank Christian because I know that you are here for us and that you are looking out for the good in us."

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I truly believe that it was the Lord who intervened in this moment and that it was because Andrés had been calling out to Him throughout the whole game. If you ever think about it, pray for us on Saturday afternoons. We are in the midst of spiritual warfare every Saturday as we teach these kids and youth about Christ. Our hope is that as they continue to learn about the Lord, that they won't just decide not to hurt someone for us, but that they will make that choice because they have begun to understand the Love of God.

A few pictures from some of our Thursday night prayer groups. This neighborhood faces challenges due to gangs, drugs, and delinquency. We have been praying together for God to change this neighborhood.



Prayers:

- We have an apartment at our ministry location and are praying over a larger space that has been offered to us. It is the same cost as the apartment, but we have been waiting 2 months for the old tenants to move out.
- Continue to pray for our apartment hunt... It has been quite difficult to find an apartment with enough space, on-site parking (this is not common), and that accept foreigners as renters.
- For God to work and move in hearts as we participate in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child.

Praises:

- 4 of our Colombia World Reach Missionary Team were able to go on a scouting trip to 2 potential Bible Institute locations. The trip went really well and we are taking next steps to see if we can start in at least one of those locations this year.
- For God's protection. We are so thankful for our physical, spiritual, and emotional health.

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.

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