



# MARIA VELEZ

## July-August Prayer Letter

Serving with  
**WORLD REACH**<sup>®</sup>  
Taking Christ to the Nations  
in Colombia

If I could choose a biblical passage to summarize a little of what I have experienced in these two months, it would be Ephesians 4:11-16. This text talks about how Christ through His Spirit has given gifts to the Church to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, which in simple words is all work done for the edification of the Kingdom of God. But beyond the works themselves there are greater goals: unity of our faith, the knowledge of the Son of God and the maturity of reaching the measure of the stature of the fullness of Him.

If we look closely, how is this achieved? In community, in unity. When each part is working properly, it makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. In other words, we need each member of the body to develop each other. It is in relationship with one another that we experience the fullness of God in Christ. So I encourage you to give your gifts and talents to the service of others, but also to let yourselves be served by others, and thus all grow to the stature of the fullness of Christ for the glory of God and the expansion of His Kingdom.

These months I had the opportunity to serve the church of God and be served by it in different spaces that I would like to share with you.

## July:

I had the wonderful opportunity to share what I have learned so far in biblical counseling with a group of influential women in my local church (leaders of women, teenagers, children ministry, etc.) through 3 workshops, in order to equip them to do their ministry in the church. It was quite a confronting time, understanding and embracing the sufficiency of Scripture to respond to the situations and struggles that everybody faces in their lives. We looked at topics such as: what is biblical counseling, the counselor, the counselee, limitations, warnings, and cautions. We hope that this will be something that will be repeated in the future to address topics in more depth.



On the other hand, I had the privilege of serving not only the local church but the global church. I translated a handbook for worship leaders for a series of conferences on worship held by World Reach missionaries in Honduras. What a great responsibility to transmit the words of others into a new language!

# August:

My local Church held a women's camp called "Embracing His Will". 80 women were gathered for 4 days, 24 of them were non-believers and they had the opportunity to listen to the great invitation of reconciliation from God repeatedly. I had the opportunity to lead worship and be a leader of a team. It was not just an honor to share the Word with other women, but also to listen and be edified by what they had learned, their own knowledge of the Word, and life-experiences.



In my team I had the opportunity to meet a woman named Adriana (the one next to me, gray sweater), she came to the camp with a hardened and broken heart by her divorce process. After the camp, she shared the joy of leaving with a new and healed heart by the truths of God and the Gospel of Hope, knowing that God is the Beloved One that will take care of her. As Isaiah 54 says: *"For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called."* Who's God is like ours? So close to us!

One life, one heart - it's worth the effort. Pray for her, to constantly find sufficiency in God and His Word.

## Some exciting news!

This year I will have the incredible privilege of going with a couple from our World Reach team to visit our co-workers in the Balkans. It is an exploratory trip for me, as I have always been interested in learning about the reality of missions and the Church in different contexts and this is a wonderful opportunity. Please pray for this time that we can be of encouragement and support to the co-workers there and that it will be a time of much learning.



## Prayer requests:

- That the basic counseling training given to the women can be used for the benefit of the ministries they perform in the local church.
- For the young women that I have had the opportunity to disciple through counseling:
  - \*Unfortunately, one of them has not been willing to continue the process due to her occupations. Let us pray that the Lord will work in her heart, because more than the counseling itself, what is important is her personal relationship with God, day by day to restore and encourage her spirit.
  - \*The other young lady has been encouraged. Let us continue to pray that her encouragement will not grow weary and faint in the midst of her struggles as a believer.
- For the trip to the Balkans.

Thank you for being part of the edification of the church in Colombia.  
By Grace alone and in Christ 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](http://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](http://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

