

MARIA VÉLEZ

Prayer letter January–March 2024

SERVING WITH WORLD REACH IN COLOMBIA

At the beginning of this year I read this sentence: "*January is the new week between Christmas and the new year. In other words, we've got time. Reflection is a gift that doesn't respond kindly to rushing.*" - In a world that rushes and rushes, taking time to reflect is a gift. Praise God for every "January" in our team in Colombia. For the past three years, as a team we have had a time of communion, but also of evaluation of the previous year and planning for the coming year. It is a way to enter gently and carefully into a new year, which like the previous ones is full of expectations and uncertainties, but is in the *careful hands* of the LORD, our God and Father.



Our time as a team was enriching. We were encouraged in areas such as marriage and parenting in the midst of ministry, how to broaden our vision, and on how to impact Colombia to live out the gospel in the midst of the unreached nations. Among other topics. We were able to be thankful for the unique ways in which God allowed us to join His Plan during 2023: 2 youth camps, 4 locations contacted for Bible institutes, local churches strengthened, and trips outside the country to support the international work.

We celebrated God's work in our personal lives, and we were also able to show ourselves vulnerable in the face of the challenges that we as missionaries have and pray for each other.

What about 2024?

That's a good question. Many ideas may come to us, but there is only one unshakeable plan: make Jesus our greatest treasure and our greatest desire and everything else will take its place. How can you *pray for us* as a World Reach Colombia team? We need wisdom for:

- The edification and strengthening of the marriages of the team.
- The process of parenting in the midst of ministry.
- Leading the 4 MBIs currently active in the country.
- Planning of an evangelistic vacation school and a youth camp in two different locations in the country.
- Planning a possible conference or meeting for women for 2025.

More reasons to praise

A new study on the fundamental doctrines for believers has been translated into Spanish and is available for use.



"Missions exists because worship doesn't" - Piper. In the local church I am part of 2 areas of service: worship and missions. It has been a joy for me to see how the Lord, by grace, has allowed me to combine these two to make missions and the persecuted church more visible in my local family and to invite them once a month during this musical time to meditate on this reality. Some testimonies of how this time has been of impact: some sisters have asked for specific prayer requests to pray for the unreached nations, while others have found motivation in the sufferings of persecuted brothers in the world and have shared more of Christ. *Pray* that we, as a local church, love God with all our heart and love His glory among the nations.

A new course is in process. As you know, biblical counseling has been one of my major interests in recent years. This year I have the privilege along with Simon Flores to write this course for the last year of the MBIs. *Pray* for wisdom that it will be a course that is based on the power of Scripture and will bring tools of grace and comfort to those who study the course. Also *pray* for (V) a lady whom God has given me the opportunity to mentor, that the Lord will break her heart and open her eyes to the transforming power of grace in areas of her life.



And finally, I rejoice to share with you that God has invited me to know Him more through the mystery of marriage. I am deeply grateful to God for the time of singleness He gave me, and I celebrate from my heart His goodness and the virtues and opportunities God has for singles in the body of Christ. (*Pray* for single Christians to enjoy Jesus and taste His fullness during that season.)

Now it is time to embrace this beautiful new season of God's eternal plan, and I am happy to introduce you to the man God has placed in my life to make me more like Jesus. His name is Hamilton. We deeply appreciate *your prayers* for our family. We long with all our being to know the Lord, love the Lord, enjoy the Lord, follow the Lord, and serve the Lord according to His Will for us.

Thank you for your prayers and for supporting the work of God through World Reach in Colombia and walking with us through this journey as we get to know Him better and make Him known.

In Christ,

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**".



Taking Christ to the Nations