

MARIA VELEZ

SERVING WITH WORLD REACH IN *Colombia*

Psalm 23:6 says: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life"

I once learned from a good friend that the Hebrew word for "follow" in this verse means *chasing after someone with intent to capture or metaphorically, to follow after something with diligence and intent*. So have been the first months of this year. Regardless of the season I have been going through, in paying attention I have been able to perceive with my whole being how His goodness and steadfast love have pursued/chased me until they found/captured me. It has been in so many ways with so much passion, intentionality and diligence. Like me, the Lord and His faithful and steadfast love pursue you day by day, in every season, in every place...for your well-being and His glory. You just need to take a deep breath and pay attention.



»»» JANUARY HIGHLIGHT: COMMUNION AND PLANNING RETREAT.

As usual, at the beginning of each year, the entire Colombia team gathers to share and plan a little of what the year could be like as a team. This year we had the gift of having Jon and Kelly Simpson with us, World Reach missionaries. They invited us to renew our minds and practice appreciation of the everyday and gratitude as a way to be more aware of God's presence in our day to day lives. It was a blessing!

Pray for us as a team to continue to walk together in faith and purpose this 2025.

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHT: MBI MEDELLIN <<<

We began the second of three years of study for the students of MBI Medellin. This time we had the class: Life of Christ. A time to intentionally focus on the life of Jesus in detail. Fascinating! There was good encouragement and participation in class.



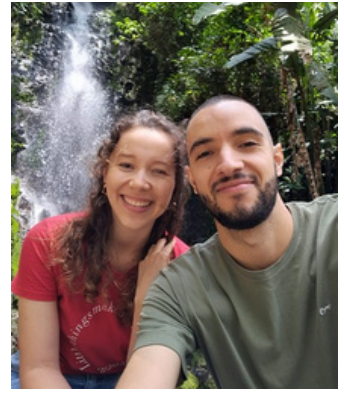
Prior to this class, I had the responsibility to grade the written materials of the students of the class: "Spiritual life of the believer". To read each material was an approach to each of their hearts. Through their answers I could see that God manifested Himself to them and in them, the Lord increased the knowledge of Him in them and brought fruit to their lives. After this, I was further affirmed that the calling God has given them goes beyond being pastors, youth leaders, or teachers of women and children. Their ultimate calling and the one by which every work, task, or ministry is impacted is to embrace and live out their identity as sons and daughters of the God Most High.

Pray that each of the students will stand firm and rooted in their identity as sons and daughters of God and that MBI will be a tool in God's hands in making this happen.

➤➤➤ MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

1 year married. Not to us, not to us but to the Name of the Lord be the glory. It has been a year of seeing our many sins and weaknesses and marveling at how great love, grace and forgiveness the Father has given to us in Christ Jesus in spite of us!

Pray, that there may be in us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus and that the Lord may endow us with wisdom for our walk in service to Him.



Celebrate God's work in the lives of those with whom we walk.



In the local church a group of brothers and sisters decided to take the step of baptism. Among them were two teenagers who are quite special to my heart and whom I have watched grow up. My longing is for them to be preserved in their walk with God and to love Him more and more. I don't know about you, but every time I witness something like this, I am filled with a feeling of gratitude for God's goodness. Lord, who are we human beings that you are mindful of us and that you care for us?

A friend whom God in his goodness and providence gave me and with whom I have studied the book of Psalms and together grow in devotion and knowledge of the Lord, embraced God's invitation to marriage. What a joy! Blessed be our God, source of love, joy and delight. May this new family be a light in the midst of this generation.

Pray that my husband and I, by the power of the Holy Spirit, will be able to share the gospel with others and encourage other believers to keep their eyes on Christ.



I hope that as you read this letter, you will give thanks and praise to our God and Father, because everything written here has been done by Him, because He continues to work.

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.
- **World Reach has a new office in Alabama!** If you support the ministry here in Colombia by check, please be sure to update your address book, since the old P.O. Box will no longer be open. The new address is:

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