

Dear 10-19 partners,

In light of the fact that we are going on a 3 month medical leave as of tomorrow, we felt it important to give one last ministry update.

With immense gratitude for your prayers and support,

Ryan & Gretchen, Adrianna & Miranda

Q & A...Top 10

1. Do you have a plan for all of the officers that have come to Christ, and now you are not in the country to provide any follow up?

* Immediately after receiving Gretchen's diagnosis of her fractured back, besides the fear & uncertainty of the pending surgery, not being here for follow up was one of our chief concerns.

* We have arranged a "battle plan" with as many of the officers as possible which involves two things: 1) begin the first phase of our discipleship & Bible study materials and 2) begin to explore your options for a church home that believes God's Word and teaches God's Word.

* Each of the more mature believers with whom we've set them up will be involved in both of these steps.

2. Whatever happened with Melissa, the young women who came to Christ with you last month?

melissa-courtney-gretch.jpg

* Gretchen has been meeting with Melissa 2 -3 times each week. We introduced her to both of the church plants in the area, Roca Viva and Impacto. Melissa was amazed by how much she gleaned from the pastors' messages, the use of the Bible in the church service, and the atmosphere of genuine worship.

* Our dear friend and sister-in-Christ, Courtney will be taking over the discipleship in our absence. Courtney, from the Kalamazoo area as well (a Cedarville grad & missionary sent out from Oakwood Bible) is here in Costa Rica teaching at Adrianna and Miranda's school. Courtney & Melissa are excited to dig further into God's Word in the coming months.

* Melissa in 40 weeks pregnant! She is a single mom, with a 9 yr old daughter and a 3 yr old son.

1. How are the officers fairing considering the great tragedies they have suffered recently?

* God has used this sad & scary time to unite the officers, bringing these elite units into a tighter community. We lost count of the number of phone calls we've received from our police friends here; calling to seek counsel, comfort and guidance. God has really used this time to direct many of the officers' eyes to Himself. In some instances, officers are responding with bitterness and anger – towards the government for lacking resources, and towards God for having allowed these storms to rage through their units.

* Praise God that we have had the privilege to sit, listen and talk through these delicate issues with many of these men and their wives.

2. What type of response have you seen as a result of TACTICA's investment into these units two weeks ago?

* One of the officers who attended the course pulled Ryan aside at the end of the graduation ceremony. Dibier said to Ryan, "I know that eleven of my partners came to Christ, but that doesn't mean that all the other Gospel seeds you planted this week were wasted. God is at work in my unit, He is really working here."

* ; Dibier called this week, sharing his burden that his partners would know Jesus intimately and be transformed by the power of God's Word.

* ; Dibier is a solid believer in Christ who has been faithful in his Christian walk for many years. He explained his desire to lead a Bible study on base. Dibier approached the Coronel and was immediately given permission to conduct a weekly Bible study with his partners on duty and at base.

* ; Ryan will be meeting with Dibier this week and teaching him to use the Story of Hope chronological Bible study. Thank you Lord for connecting us with Christian officers that have a passion to be disciple-makers.

3. How are you managing the ministry with so many needing discipleship & your attention?

fernando-david-meet.jpg

* Genesis 12 "The Lord will see and the Lord will provide." That is what Jehovah-Jireh means. We should not be surprised to find Abraham declaring this truth and attaching it to the spot that was to be forever famous. His whole heart was saturated

with it. His soul was sustained by it. His trial taught him more of his God than he knew before or could have known in any other way.

* Training the trainers. Individuals that have come to Christ in the past and have gone through discipleship with us are being challenged & trained to take on the roll of disciple-maker. This is an arduous, time consuming process, but well worth the sweat and tears.

* Fernando, Arturo, Adriana, Rafael, Sharon, Rodolfo, Dibier, Marlene, Karla, Gustavo, Francisco, Steve & Gerald have all actively shared their faith and are partnering with us in the coaching and counseling of the new believers.

4. Is the responsibility overwhelming?

david-marilyn-pjohns.jpg

* 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 “What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”

* At the end of the day, we see that ministry has little to do with ability, dynamic personality, or high intelligence – but rather it’s about obediently and passionately working in God’s field, planting and watering while God gives the increase. To God be the glory!

* A challenge is the fact that the officers do not all live here in the Central Valley. In fact, many live up to six hours away from us. This is an area where we must rely heavily on Costa Rican pastors and fellow Christians to increase & strengthen our network of solid Bible-believing, Bible-preaching churches and discipleship sources.

* Ryan will be traveling all next week visiting and connecting these new brothers and sisters in Christ with a solid church families. From Naranjo to Quepos, we are amazed as we see the Lord providing us solid church contacts for these officers.

5. Is everything arranged for your family’s time in Michigan this winter?

* YES! ...a home, vehicles, clothing! God has provided for our family, on many occasions before we even had a chance to pray about it. We stand reminded that He knows our need before we ask: ...for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6:8

* We have also been reminded about why we don not need to worry: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear ... Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?” Matthew 6:25, 27

6. When do you leave Costa Rica, and how long will you be in Michigan on medical leave?

* Please pray for Gretchen, Adrianna and Miranda as they depart tomorrow Friday, November 6th. Ryan will follow next Friday, Nov. 13th.

* We will be on medical leave in Michigan while Gretchen heals and recovers from surgery for three months. Our return to Costa Rica is February 5th.

* Tentative surgery date is Thursday, November 19th.

7. Do you have a mailing address for your time state-side?

* Ryan & Gretchen Rought

c/o Berean Baptist Church

7813 12th Street

Portage, MI 49024

8. How can we be praying for Adrianna and Miranda?

adri-mj-blue-fence.jpgaDRI-MJ-ROCK.jpg

* Adrianna: Please pray that we have a safe flight. Please pray that mommy's surgery on her back goes well. I am excited because I get to have Christmas in the United States. I was a little worried about the swine flu but now I am not worried. I really hope that I have fun with my family this winter.

* Miranda: ; Please pray for my runny nose. I am really excited to see snow. I hope that it is not too cold. I am happy because I get to do home-school with mommy. I have a lot of books and it is going to be so good. I lost my tooth this week. It was my first tooth to fall out.