

The Jolleys

Serving the Spanish and English Speaking World
with Fellowship International

September 5, 2018

Dear Prayer Partners,

The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come. (Mark 4:26-27)

In our community we are known as “religious” people. I find this label to be both a blessing and a curse. A blessing in that for many the label is respected and even admired by some. A curse in that for others it is a wall to effective communication as they tend to keep you at a distance. For some, to express our faith and give testimony to our Lord is an open door, for others it takes a lot more work to break up hard ground, remove stones and weeds in order to work the soil for the seed. For a few, the greater work is sometimes in us, because their personality, lifestyle or manerisms (all consequences of sins committed and received) are not always the easiest to deal with.

Our home on the Bruce Peninsula is a tourist region with the result that most of our neighbours are seasonal residents. So reaching them with the gospel of the kingdom is also seasonal for us. While they are here we seek to love them in multiple ways. This can mean anything from a day of physical labour of making a cottage repair or bringing out a chain saw, to sharing a meal together, or having a visit on our front porch. In each and every relationship encounter we seek to image God in love and grace to them. This may be through expressing gratitude to our Lord in their presence, giving testimony to how we have seen God at work in our lives or the life of others that week, or through listening to them and expressing some thought from Scripture that the Holy Spirit might use in their life, or offering to pray in the moment for their concerns. A lot of seed sowing is done. Each vacation season, with some the relationship is stronger, and the opportunity to speak honestly and of spiritual things is deeper. For those that hold us at arms length, walls are beginning to show cracks.

Why all this effort of relationship building, caring, service and sharing? Why do we sow so many seeds and in so many ways? Because we long for the day to “put in the sickle and harvest!” So like Canadian farmers, there is a season for us to work our community, work the soil, sow the seeds, and wait upon the Lord to work the miracle of life in them. With the vacation season coming to an end, our prayers continue for them. We pray that others in the communities from which they come, will continue the work of preparing soil and sowing seeds in them. Never stop sowing seeds. Jesus implies that there is no harvest without the hard work of sowing.

The one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor. (John 4:36-38, emphasis mine)

In August, Ken had the privilege of attending a summit of our Fellowship International missionaries in Poland, as we worked through what it means to make disciples and see disciple making movements happen in our world. Sowing seeds is also the essence of disciple making. It is what Jesus did with His disciples, experiencing life with them. As they lived and served together, He spent years, working hardened hearts, challenging stones of incorrect belief, and seeking to remove weeds of false values and things to live for. Once His ministry amongst them was done, He entrusted all that He had taught and modelled for them to the Holy Spirit in them to see the movement happen. We seek to do the same.

In response to the Summit, we are praying to see such a discipleship making movement happen here where we live. Many of our neighbours who do live here all year round, have been burned by the church, at least they feel judged by her and want nothing if anything to do with her. We ask ourselves, "What does the gospel (good news) look like for such people?" To this end, we will continue to pray and work the soils, and our hearts desire is that we may be able to begin a Discovery Bible Study with a few as we walk with God in discovering such people.

So as we continue to make God known in our community, we seek to do the same through the mentoring and equipping of others in many places of our world.

- Ken currently has a Spanish discussion group on Monday evenings via video conference with a group of Venezuelans (living in 3 different countries), whose heart desire is to become more effective in making disciples. Sharing about our disciple making efforts, Scripture study, encouragement and prayer is part of what they do each week.
- Responding to email communications continues to be a weekly activity. The topics and contexts Ken is invited to have coaching and mentoring input is extremely diverse. Each requires wisdom and grace and the intervention of God's Spirit as many servants are seeking to accomplish wonderful things for the kingdom in many places.
- Ken continues to have the honour of preaching each Sunday at Markdale Baptist Church as they process the graduation to glory of Pastor Bruce Laidlaw and are currently organizing themselves towards finding a new pastor.
- We are encouraged by the funds donated to date towards the FAIR (Fellowship Agency for International Relief) project "Helping the Sojourner" which is providing financial resources for the El Redil churches of Colombia to attend to Venezuelans and communicate the gospel in the midst of the current humanitarian crisis. For more information you can check out the website for a description and updates to this appeal: www.fellowship.ca/HelpingtheSojourner.
- In the coming months, Ken will be coordinating a reunion of Spanish Kairos course graduates in Toronto, the training of facilitators and the offering of two courses in the new year.

In all of these things, we are so grateful for your partnership as we abide in Christ and seek to make Him known through disciple making and providing encouragement to others for service in the kingdom.

Your ambassadors for the sake of the kingdom,



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