

# The Jolleys

Serving the Spanish and English Speaking World  
with Fellowship International

August 30, 2019

Dear Prayer Partners,

*To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)*

I am impacted by the fact that these are the words of Jesus to believers. The testimony of the Scriptures is that upon renouncing sin and committing our lives to God, we experience salvation as the atoning work of Christ is applied to us and we experience forgiveness and freedom from sin. But here, Jesus says that there is also an ongoing process of "freedom from sin" (vs. 34-36) that is to be experienced by believers as we discover other elements of truth and appropriate them to our lives. According to Jesus, it is a characteristic of His true disciples.

From time to time I have been asked, "Ken, as you are mentoring others, what are you specifically doing with them?" Good question, because it is very diverse. Just as diverse as the people with whom I am walking with. It began with former students, from the Caracas Evangelical Seminary, but has since grown to receiving referrals, and so now I am communicating with people with whom I have not met formally "face to face". The vast majority are Spanish speakers, starting out in life with young families, serving in varied ministries as missionaries, pastors, in their local churches or other kingdom building ministries.

There are many pitfalls and dangers in ministry. I know, because I have fallen into most of them. But I am grateful that we have a Saviour who knows how to rescue people out of pits! We all have wounds from our own sins and from sins that were committed against us, that affect our identities and motivations in ministry. I do not fully understand it, but the Lord seems to be orchestrating opportunities for me to walk with others and enter into their lives, and out of my own life experience and the Scriptures, we discover what God is seeking to do in and through them as they struggle and mature and find their roles in kingdom service.

Relational health is key to spiritual health. In the words of the apostle John, you cannot love God if you cannot love your brother (1 John 4:7-21). I operate from the premise that all behaviour is governed by our values, and it is at the level of our values, that the Spirit of God does surgery on our hearts. In the words of the apostle Paul "the transformation of our minds", where we actually need to understand and think about things differently. Our true values show up in our reactions to people and circumstances, and sometimes they are values that are "anti-kingdom" (at the very least they are selfish ones), which keep us blocked in maturing in Christ and service. So where these are discovered, we crucify them in Christ, and replace them with values of the kingdom.

When it comes to maturing in serving God and His kingdom, there are unique experiences that God takes His servants through so that we can mature in our service (life struggles, marriage struggles, family struggles, ministry struggles). God will often place us in places where we need to be "stretched". It is an honour for me to be a "Barnabas" (equipper and encourager) to those who face such times, or who simply desire a mentor and to affirm them in what God is saying and doing. A lot of what I do, is just helping them see God in all things, so that they might involve God in all things, as

they walk with Him in their kingdom service. As Jesus goes on to say, "If the Son sets you free, you will really be free" (John 8:36). A free servant is a healthy servant. It is a joy for me to do this on your behalf. As they find new dimensions of freedom through knowing and appropriating the truths of Christ, they are better disciple makers and models of God and His kingdom, particularly as we give priority to reaching the least reached for Christ.

In this same vein, it is an honour for me to also be involved weekly as an academic mentor to Wilcar Martinez and Yaneth Guerrero in Colombia, as they are working through their studies and assignments in master's level theological formation through Immerse. Immerse is "competency based" learning, where the focus is upon the development of healthy servants in all areas of their character, knowledge, life and ministry abilities. Both have been very disciplined in their assignments, and we are growing together as we come to discover and appropriate new facets of truth

On September 1, we have the honour of blessing Markdale Baptist, as they welcome Chris Crocker and his family as their new pastor. Thank you for your prayers, as Ken has ministered through preaching and we have walked with this congregation each Sunday. We will miss this loving congregation of followers of Jesus Christ, but we also celebrate with a great deal of joy, in seeing how God will continue to minister to and through them as they seek to make God and His kingdom known in their community and beyond.

Most of our neighbours on the Bruce Peninsula are seasonal residents. This summer, God has enabled us to love them, helping out with projects, sharing meals together, visiting on our front porch, and kingdom seeds have been sown. Oh, how we would love that they too could experience freedom in Christ! Our relationship with several of them has grown and is deeper. As we enter into the fall, they will be closing up their vacational properties or moving to other residences in warmer places. We are praying for their salvation as we dialogue about our lives and what God is seeking to say to them.

Thank you for your prayers, as we encourage people to find freedom in Christ, through knowing and appropriating His truth.

Your partners in the gospel of the kingdom,



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