

The Jolleys

Serving the Spanish and English Speaking World
with Fellowship International

November 26, 2019

Dear Prayer Partners

Acts 4:36 introduces us to a man who was born with the name “Joseph”, but who was so transformed by the grace of God that everyone gave him a new name, and it is by that new name that we know him today. “Barnabas”, as Luke points out means “son of encouragement”. Not a lot is said about Barnabas in the Scriptures, but with the little that is said about him, you cannot help but love the guy. Somehow people felt Barnabas was a much better name for him than Joseph.

We usually think of encouragement as saying something nice to somebody. But biblically, encouragement is a whole lot more powerful than that. In fact we often speak today of “empowering” others and in many regards, our common use of the idea of empowering better captures the essence of this biblical term. There is power in encouragement because encouragement is empowering. More than seeking to make people feel good, encouragement seeks to strengthen others.

Barnabas was known for it. There are many good qualities in Barnabas as a model for all of us, but two qualities stand out for Ken, that help him understand the call and ministry that God has placed before him today.

First, Barnabas had the ability to identify and stand behind people when others wanted nothing to do with them. He did this for the recently converted enemy of the church, whom we know as Paul (Acts 9:26-27), he did this for the gentile believers when the Jerusalem church thought they were in doctrinal error (Acts 15:1-2) and he did this for John Mark (Acts 15:36-41) who became the author of the first gospel. I am so glad that Barnabas did this, even when it meant the breaking of his own heart and wounding of ministry relationships. Where would we be today, if Barnabas had not stood up for these people? In this quality of Barnabas we see an ability to see people, not only in the reality of who they are in the present, but in the potential of who they can become if given the opportunity for the fullness of the grace of God to take hold of their lives. To get them there, Barnabas stuck with them, in spite of what others thought or intended. Barnabas’ ability to empower, as they continued to live life together made all the difference for them, and a God story was made.

Secondly, Barnabas was able to see these same individuals: the apostle Paul, the Antioch church, John Mark and others develop to the point of flourishing in kingdom service far beyond anything Barnabas could be or do in and of himself. To be a son of encouragement, is to develop others, by walking with them in all of life, and see the glory of Christ manifested in their lives in its fullness.

Barnabas inspires and models for Ken what to do, through emails, video, internet calls and personal encounters with servants in formation in many places on our globe. This is his honour and privilege, to come alongside them in whatever they may be facing in life, relationships or ministry to first see God in what they are experiencing (whether good or ugly), and then invite them to involve God in what they are experiencing. If there are blockages in seeing or accomplishing either of these, then we work with Christ to identify and deal with the blockages. When they flourish in who they are in God’s kingdom, we get to celebrate the work of God, and can give thanks for the sweat and tears although sometimes painful that got us there.

Recently, Ken has seen this in:

- Nelson, who in the midst of many legitimate fears, doubts and searching is today such a powerful light and testimony to Christ in the midst of the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.
- In Marcel, who as a Venezuelan immigrant in Miami is a model of faith in God’s provision daily for his family, and is willing to pay whatever cost necessary to be faithful in living God’s kingdom and making

Him known. Marcel is growing in being a disciple maker, and after years of weekly encounter, what he initially sought out from Ken, he is doing in discipling others to faith in Christ.

- In Leo, who in leaving Venezuela is learning to embrace Paraguay and his wife, who in the midst of uncertainty is learning to be faithful and lean upon the One who knows our unknown and grow and be affirmed in his role as a disciple maker in a new land.
- And the list can go on.... We do rely on your prayers for wisdom and grace in each encounter.

Ministry projects in the coming months include:

- Ken continues to walk weekly as an academic mentor to students with Immerse in Colombia, as they gain theological and ministry competency.
- Continues his review of Belky's Morenos spanish translation of "Trauma and Resilencia", as Belkys completes each chapter of translation. This resource guide for those in our churches who seek to walk with missionaries who have experienced extreme trauma or crisis has been ministering to Belkys and Ken, as Belkys is another one of those faithful servants who is seeking to be light in the midst of the Venezuelan humanitarian crisis. At Fellowship National Convention, Diego Cardona shared how 3.5 million venezuelans have crossed over into Colombia, many in transit on foot on their way to other neighbouring countries while others seek refugee or new immigrant status in Colombia. The Soujourner Fair project is helping Colombian churches minister to Venezuelan refugees.
- In January, he will be working with a former seminary student, Rafael, in giving a weekly hermeneutics course/workshop to the church he is involved with in Miami.
- In January and February, Ken will be coordinating the translation of the new Leader's Formation, Books 1 and 2 into Spanish.
- In March, Ken has accepted an invitation to accompany Hanni Muhtar to Manado, Indonesia, where Ken can receive first hand experience and training as a Leaders Formation facilitator. The challenge is that Ken will need to raise \$2,800 in order to cover air travel and accomodation for this trip. Would you be willing to donate to this opportunity? Donations can be made online through the Fellowship website (fellowship.ca) or sent directly to the Fellowship International office in Guelph. Please ensure to designate your donation to "Jolley Indonesian travel."

To encourage others is to empower them for who God designed them to be in the service of His kingdom. It is our honour to encourage and equip servants in the Spanish speaking world on your behalf.

Your partners in the gospel of the kingdom,



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