

## **Equipping Servants: Disciples Making Disciples**

## James Update August 2022

Finally, brothers, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored! (2 Thessalonians 3:1—ESV).

Greetings from Bolivia. We thank God for your partnership in ministry as we move to refocus our attention toward Africa (while continuing to develop ESI (Equipping Servants International—Disciples Making Disciples).

**SOLW** *Update:* Debbie and I spent the month of April in Senegal, Chad, and Turkey. This is a Cairo-based ministry that trains church planters in 17 centers across Africa and the Middle East. Parkside Church has asked us to refocus our main ministry to train the leaders of these training centers, and their students. What a privilege for us to teach these believers Romans and to hear their amazing testimonies of God's grace drawing them to know and to trust Christ in very difficult situations.

**ESI Africa:** The third week of April we had the joy of bringing together 120 pastors and church leaders from English speaking Africa. During this 4-day ESI Training Retreat many expressed their desire to study the Bible with us, realizing how far the church in their countries has drifted away from God's Word. As a follow-up to this ESI Retreat, Kep will be in Nairobi September 5-7 to lead 60 Kenyan pastors and church leaders through Romans. Pray that many will commit to study the Bible with us in small groups in their own local churches.

**ESI Update:** We are thankful that ESI was able to move forward after the Covid difficulties of 2021 and 2022. Currently we have 2000 participants in 200 groups in 14 countries (Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Spain, Sweden). Pray for ESI Expansion — especially for pastor Jose Gutierrez as he develops relationships with pastors in Central America and the Caribbean to begin ESI there, and for Debbie and I as we develop ESI in East Africa in 2023.

**Transition back to Cleveland:** Our return date to leave Bolivia and move to Cleveland is Oct 19. Thank you for partnering with us in the gospel. Pray that the Lord will continue transforming lives, marriages, families and churches.

Kep and Debbie James

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## **Our Purpose**

To honor Christ by strengthening local churches to be true to God's Word, thinking, living, and serving with the gospel at the center.

## Pray ...

- For Kep as he trains the SOLW Ministry leaders
  Aug 31-Sept 2 in Cairo.
  Pray that the Lord will meet each one in a fresh way to commit to study the Bible to understand
  Jesus in the center and experience gospel transformation.
- For Kep starting ESI in Kenya Sept 5-7 with 60 pastors and church leaders.
- Pray for the 2000 ESI participants in 14 countries, that each will grow in their passion for Jesus and commitment to disciple believers through His Word to know Christ and to make Him known!
- For pastors and church leaders everywhere to honor Christ by being true to His Scriptures (John 8:31,32).
- For Debbie's ILC women's leadership team working with women in the ILC Church.
- For Kep and Deb returning to Cleveland Oct 19 to refocus our ministry toward Africa, as well as continuing ESI Expansion.