

Equipping Servants... disciples making disciples

James Update May 2021

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

Greetings from Cleveland. Debbie and I leave Cleveland for La Paz May 22. We have had a wonderful and full Home Assignment, and look forward to ways the Lord will continue moving the Gospel forward in Bolivia. Debbie will continue working with the ILC Church women's ministry team as they evangelize, disciple and teach women the Bible in La Paz.

I will continue supporting Pastor Pepe in the ILC Church, and giving oversight to the ESI (Equipping Servants International) ministry in 15 countries where we have groups. In addition, I will give increasing attention to "Streams In the Desert" ministry in North Africa. The Egyptian pastor who leads this ministry (Philip) has been raising up church planters for over 30 years. He reports that he has never see such openness to the gospel EVER as now. He asked if I could help develop their curriculum for the 60 plus students in Egypt, Chad, South Sudan, Senegal and Ethiopia – as a ministry partnership with Parkside Church. Pray that the Lord will provide good translators for the different books and materials we need to translate into Arabic, French, and Amharic. We need to have these materials ready to start new groups in December. I plan to spend the month of November in Africa training the trainers.

Recently Streams sent a report – this summary may help to understand what they do:

TYRANNUS MISSIONARY SCHOOL Outreach: the 31 students at Stream's Tyrannus Missionary School in Juba, South Sudan, are nearing the end of their one year training. In order to prepare for 3 years of church planting in North and South Sudan, they go out in groups of 2-3 every Monday to share the Good News of Jesus. They recently visited a military camp where 44 soldiers made professions of faith in Christ! They will disciple these new believers to give them a strong Biblical foundation.

GIRL'S ORPHANAGE: House of Hope in Juba, South Sudan recently celebrated 10 years! These 48 girls have seen God's goodness and mercy growing in Jesus each day despite 2 civil wars, attacks by armed gangs, scorpions, diseases (malaria, typhoid), and harassment. God has miraculously protected them.

REVOLUTION: The recent uprising by rebel bands in Chad and the death of their President caused Streams' Tyrannus Missionary School to close early. The 16 graduating students were sent off in 5 teams to join the 23 church planters already planting churches in Chad. Pray for Gospel impact and wisdom as they tell people about Jesus, and that they would be protected from rebel forces.

Thank you for praying! When you pray, you are there with us! Debbie and I thank God for your partnership in the Gospel. We thank God for what HE is doing transforming lives.

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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 ...

- Our good friend and ministry partner in Bolivia, David Pena, died of Covid last month. Pray for Carla and their two daughters as they deal with this terrible loss.
- For the 2100 active ESI participants in 200 groups in 15 countries.
 Pray that church leaders will grow in their passion for Christ and His Word, and in their commitment to disciple believers to know Christ and make Him known!
- That pastors and church leaders would stop walking alone and walk together in Biblical friendship — to experience Gospel-centered unity.
- For Streams Ministry in North Africa, for the church planters they train up and send out into very difficult locations.
- For Deb and her ILC women's ministry.
- That God will encourage Pastor Pepe in his pastoral ministry in the ILC Church in La Paz.