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Wendel Summer 2023 Update

1 message

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CELEBRATIONS, CELEBRATIONS, CELEBRATIONS

IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD



Immediate Family Celebrations

Two years ago God directed our son, Nathanael, to continue to pursue his degree in Columbus, Ohio. Within two weeks God provided a scholarship, a roommate, a church and a church picnic, where he met Kira Miller! And the rest, as they say, is history!

This past May, after arriving in Chicago, we were able to celebrate with Elijah and friends, his 22nd birthday at Illinois Institute of Technology, head to Cedarville University in Ohio to move Olivia out of her dorm room, and then continue on to Columbus, where we watched Nathanael (and 12,500 other graduates at The Ohio State University) walk across the "50 yard line" to receive his masters degree.

and...6 days later, joined by Timothy and Liz (and 150 family members and friends) witnessed Nathanael and Kira Miller walk down the aisle as they began their new lives together honoring God through marriage. We are so thankful to the Lord for the way HE provides in each of our children's lives!



Extended Family Celebrations

After a summer full of Councils and Conferences, we were able to enjoy a family reunion with Melanie's side in Maryland. It had been 6 years since seeing some and the first time for meeting others! There was much food, fun and "flopping on the rugs" a term coined by Melanie's dad in Ecuador to mean the importance of just being together in one place and enjoying each others' presence.

On a particular morning together, we through Storytelling, remembered God's covenant to Abraham and Sarah promising that He would establish a *Great Family* "as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore" (Gen 22:17) through His Only son Jesus. It was beautiful to celebrate and remember those before us; great great grandparents who had had to immigrate to the USA for various reasons, but had held on to their faith, passing it on to the next generation, so that we in turn could receive and pass on God's truth to the generations after us.



Family of God Celebrations

These past few months we have been attending other celebrations, with this Great Family of God.

One hundred years ago, in 1923, after the Alliance had gone through several difficult transitions and leadership changes, missionaries were sent by faith to 5 new countries. This past month, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of a strong national church in one of those countries, Colombia. The work in Colombia actually began under persecution. Homer Crissman, trying to share the Bible to those in Ecuador was run out of town. Crossing the border into Colombia, he was met by a photographer, Teófilo in the park, wondering what was so dangerous about that "Book" that people would want to stone him. That night Homer presented him the Gospel. Teófilo and his wife put their faith in Christ and the first Alliance church was born.

Fifty years ago, breaking from mission tradition to take the Gospel to the interior of the country, a catalytic church planting movement was birthed in the capital city, Lima, Peru leading to more than 90 churches and 70,000 plus members. This October we will celebrate Lima Encounter with God (LED).

In Chile, 125 years ago, missionary Henry Weiss, on this way to India made a round about "Divine" detour in Panama after sensing a call to Chile. Through persecution and trials, little money or backing, the Alliance church in Chile was born and is now thriving.

What do these churches have in common? They were all started in unplanned, unconventional ways, but under the provision and direction of God! These churches are now sending out their own missionaries to places that have never heard about the love of God and are being led to places where only the Lord could lead.

What do all of these CELEBRATIONS have in common?

We see the hand of God directing (sometimes redirecting!) intervening, and providing in order to accomplish His purposes in the world, families and individual lives.

We can often look at failed plans or purposes and question God's will. But He is in control of each of our lives, in order to extend His love to us and others.

Psalm 78: 1-7

My people, hear my teaching;

listen to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth with a parable;

I will utter hidden things, things from of old—

things we have heard and known,

things our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their descendants;

we will tell the next generation

the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,

his power, and the wonders he has done.

He decreed statutes for Jacob

and established the law in Israel,

which he commanded our ancestors
 to teach their children,
so the next generation would know them,
 even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.
 Then they would put their trust in God
 and would not forget his deeds
 but would keep his commands.



Thank you for partnering with us as we all continue to share this Great Story of Jesus to those who yet have not heard, even in the hardest of places.

We would appreciate your prayers these next months as we continue to travel throughout Latin America.

1. As we finish up our stay in Chile after participating in their Missions Conference. Pray for this national church as they have workers who are ready to be sent out to the hardest places in the world and as we partner with them in supporting them on teams, through prayer and in member care.

2. Pray for our Third Culture Kids (MKS): many of them are going through big transitions or challenges. Pray for Melanie as she gives care to those from the USA and partners with other national churches in supporting a care network for Latin American TCKS.

3. As we participate in South American (CLA) and Central American (CCA) church conferences in the next

months. That God would clearly direct to new places where He is leading.

4. Pray for the final interviews and placement of new workers we hope to appoint to Mexico and to help meet the great needs in that region.

5. As we lead Strategic Reviews in Uruguay and Field Forums in Paraguay.

6. As Melanie continues to support others in Orality methods.

7. For Cuba as they send out a 40 ft. container full of building materials for the Seminary, national office and provisions for pastors and their families.

8. For the Chinese ministries in Peru and Panama and various church plants in Paraguay, that many would come to Christ.

9. For our parents and children! We are the Sandwich Generation! That each would sense God's presence and love in their daily lives.

10. For our financial needs: Thank you to so many for partnering with us. We will be needing to increase our contribution towards our support by 10% by the close of this year. If you would like to support us in this way, you may give to "a worker you love" and type in our names at: <http://secure.cmalliance.org/give/>
or email us at: wendel_spain@yahoo.com

Thank you SO much for your prayers, friendship and partnership with us as we continue to encourage, give oversight, mobilize and strategize in the work here in Latin America and beyond

Love , Melanie and Tim

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