

Dear Friends,

May 2018

"... if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

Greetings from Costa Rica! We pray that this letter finds you all well and in the knowledge of the goodness of our Heavenly Father! He is a present God who has made Himself accessible to us at all times! Wherever you are and in whatever circumstance you find yourself in, He is there!

It amazes me as I read through the Bible how many times the nation of Israel rebels and then repents. It plays like a bad movie! Then, I go and look in a mirror! With every year that God allows for me to walk this earth, I discover more and more how I am like the nation of Israel! Rebellious. Hard hearted. Slow to learn. Up one moment and down another! The point here is not to focus on how bad we are or how many times we've fallen, but instead on the longsuffering goodness and mercy of our Savior! No matter how many times we mess up, He continues to give us a path back to Him. Prayer!

Over the past week we decided to take the discipline of prayer in our ministry (and personal spiritual life) and prioritize it. God has always been there! (Rev. 3:20). Prayer has always been available to us as a direct link to our Father. So why have we neglected it? Don't get me wrong, we have always prayed. But as we took a hard and honest look at the role of prayer in our lives and our ministry, we had to admit that it was something that we brought in as a side note. So we fell on our knees and repented over this. That time together in prayer last week changed everything! Today, we feel energized and renewed! We have not sensed this kind of peace and assurance in quite some time! The many challenges that lie ahead don't look so big anymore!

Today, we are more committed than ever to lead everything that we do with prayer. Every meeting small or large will begin with prayer. Every decision that we make will be committed to prayer. In short, prayer will get us "out of the gate" in whatever circumstance and opportunity that we face. You should try it! "If (we) who are called by (God's) name, will humble ourselves and pray and seek (His) face and turn from (our) wicked ways, THEN (God) will hear from heaven, and will forgive (our) sin and will heal (our) land!" (*Emphasis mine*) My friends, life doesn't give us any guarantees, but God sure does! Lead your life with prayer! Don't leave home without it. Neither will we!

May the peace and presence of God and the unshakeable love of His Son protect and empower you. Thank you for your partnership with us! Great things are ahead! I am confident that He who began this good work in us is faithful and will carry it on to completion for His sake! (Phil. 1:6) God bless you all!

For the youth of Latin America,

Joseph Pent
Executive Director