

The Masters Ministry Update

November 2024

Family Update

Since our last prayer letter to you in May, our lives have been a whirlwind of activity. We (Brian and Jennifer) have spent every spare minute planning for the opening of our newest coffee shop in Melissa, TX. This summer, Olivia completed an internship in women's ministry at Watermark Community Church here in Dallas. She also purchased her first car, and in August we rode along to help her with the drive back to Chicago to start her senior year at Moody. When we arrived, we helped her get her things moved into her dorm. Then we helped Sabrina and Stoller (living in Chicago) load up their moving truck and made the drive with them cross country to Farmington, NM where Stoller accepted a position on staff at Sagebrush Church as director of small groups and discipleship. Sabrina has continued her position with Moody remotely as assistant to the Dean of Student Care and Concern, and also works part time for the church in the children's ministry and worship ministry. Both Sabrina and Stoller are continuing to pursue their graduate degrees from Moody Theological Seminary by taking classes online. Sabrina will graduate in May, with Stoller finishing up after an additional semester. We loved seeing their new home and helping them get moved in! They are enjoying getting plugged into a new community. Since we flew home from Farmington, we have been working many hours with the Melissa shop and were excited to see it finally open on November 14 after passing the last inspection. Alyssa has been a huge help with training new team members and promoting the new shop on social media. She and Tim continue to be involved with their church and community group. We are looking forward to having our entire family together for Thanksgiving!

Ministry Update

While we have had the joy of seeing God provide again and again throughout these past six months, we have struggled with the tension between knowing that God will provide and not knowing His timeline for His provision. Throughout these six months, we have prayed for a general manager to lead and hire the team for the new HOPE Coffee Melissa location; and God led us to Sarah Davis. We have prayed for the team members to work at this location; and God brought us a great group of people. We have agonized over the process and finances to build-out the interior of the store and the launch date; and God provided the funds, and we opened on November 14. We have had our hearts sink when we had an unexpected group of team members leave the Sunnyvale location; but God has provided a new group to take up the task of serving this community. We have worked long hours and have wondered how we would ever make it; but God has provided periods of rest and encouragement. We have wrung our hands when we learned that the city in which our warehouse is located is giving us 90 days to move out because they declared eminent domain on that property; but God provided another nearby warehouse that is within our budget.

Just when the thought of "Why do we do this?" creeps into my mind, I go back and recount the stories throughout the year of the families that have heard the gospel and the 18 people who trusted in Jesus this year. It helps to remember that God owns this company; this business ministry; and He wants me to be faithful with the talent that He has given me. I really do love being a part of building and growing this ministry business. It is challenging at times, but it is fun and rewarding work. I pray that you too are able to discover that the work you are doing is rewarding work for God's kingdom – that even what seems to be mundane work is beneficial for God's kingdom as you show and share the love the Jesus with those around you.

As an encouragement to you (and me), here are a couple of the latest stories:

On August 2nd, Pastor Roberto and Pastor Carlos distributed food baskets to 25 families in the small village of Talanga, Atima, Santa Bárbara, Honduras. As the people sat down to receive their food baskets, Roberto and Carlos shared that their motivation for providing food for each family was because Jesus created them, loves them and wants a relationship with them. Therefore, they wanted to show Jesus' love to them by providing some much-needed food for each family. After they distributed the food, Darwin, Norma and Anselmo decided to trust in Jesus!



On October 24th and 25th, Pastor Brigido did something similar with six families in Xilitla, San Luis Potosi, Mexico. However, he went to the home of each family and brought the groceries into their kitchen. While he was in their kitchen, he shared about Jesus with them, and Romualdo, Bertha and Genaro trusted in Jesus!



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On November 11th, Pastor Arnulfo and Carlos distributed 58 water filters in three small villages in the community of Resumidero. As part of the school activities, teachers and students walk to a nearby mountain stream to fill their buckets with water and carry them back home. As the pastors shared how to use these filters to clean the water from the mountain, they explained how Jesus' death and resurrection cleans us from the death penalty of sin when we trust in Him. We praise God that four ladies (Lilian, Helen, Wendy, and Baudilia Leiva) trusted in Jesus that day. Their friend Nohemi also rededicated her life to Jesus.

Thank you for praying with us as we work, serve and share the gospel and live as Jesus followers in this world. We appreciate you!

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