

### GOD LEADS HIS WORK

Acts 16:6-10

There are moments when we feel confused by the circumstances of life. The passage that I share with you is one of those that when you read it you ask yourself: What is this doing here? but also, I believe this passage presents us with the dilemmas that the missionaries experienced in the fields. So, I share with you some things we learned with Jacqueline my wife from this passage.

#### I. God guides his work sovereignly.

Here we see Paul and his group wanting to do what God had commanded them, preach the gospel. However, everything seems confusing, they are in their second trip through large regions, but the Holy Spirit prevents them from going to the South and later He does not allow them to go to the North, they have traveled a lot, and everything seems confusing. Even when they have a vision after having traveled from east to west, the vision is not clear enough.

This is like our personal experiences in the mission field, we know the general will of God, but nevertheless this passage shows us that God guides his work and his people, BUT SOVEREIGNLY.

Sometimes he decides to give us the details, sometimes he doesn't. Because he is Sovereign.

#### II. God guides his work and sustains it.

But not only does God guide sovereignly, but also sustains his work. Some scholars estimate that the journey took about 4 months. Can you imagine walking through mountains full of dangers, in the sun, without supermarkets where to stop to buy something, without enough money for the trip? That happened with the group. Without hotels to rest, only a God who strengthened them in everything.

But again, our experience with God has shown us that even though the road seems hard, suffocating, dangerous, God sustain his work always. The passage tells us that the team reached its destination, BUT BECAUSE OF GOD.

#### III. God guides his work with purposes.

In the end what was the purpose of the trip? Well, I think there are many. In Troas it is noticeable that the team found Luke. Luke himself in writing goes from using the third person to the second, assuming that He was now part of the mission team. A golden collaborator, whom God would use to write part of the New Testament and one of the few who would be with the apostle until his last days become a team member.

Interesting also, that the Macedonian man was a woman, because the first God touch with the gospel into Philip was Lydia. God didn't allow Paul to go to Asia, but he took him to a woman who was from that area. Paul would enter Ephesus two years later with the support of this believer.

Finally, in Philip a church was established with Lydia's family and the jailer's family. This church would help Paul again and again financially. It is after establishing this church that Paul's ministry becomes more stationary, going from city to city to settle in Corinth for almost two years. Well, this new church was not very generous to Paul, but God had taken Paul and his team Sovereignly, he held it with purpose. Paul testifies about this in the letter to the Philippians 4:15: And you yourselves, Philippians, know that at the beginning of the gospel work, when I left Macedonia, no church participated with me in my income and expenses, except you.

**SO, BRETHREN, WHEN THE JOURNEY BECOMES DIFFICULT, CALM GOD GUIDES US SOVEREIGNLY, WILL STRENGTHEN US ON THE JOURNEY AND GUIDE US TO HIS PURPOSES.**

### APRIL—BIBLE CLUBS

After Jacqueline's surgery we had to spend some time attending to the activities of the house and the children. However the Bible clubs continued in Sombrero and the Tumbaos. Although then we went on break for a month and a half. Because in May—June I fell ill with Covid.



Thank God we worked in two Haitian churches with about 80 children every Saturday. In addition, in our local church we have a group of about 10 children who meet at our house on Saturday afternoons. God has been good. Games, Dynamics, Biblical Lessons, Songs and Snack are part of the program. Every week the children also memorize a verse. James and Jaimeline are in charge of preparing the crafts.





## April—Preaching the Gospel

- Despite being busy helping Jacqueline in household occupations, the Lord allowed us to minister his Word in three different churches. In the first photo in my local church La Gracia in Bani City.
- In the second photo on the right preaching in the Haitian church of Bani. We managed this month to bless the congregation by supporting them with the painting of their temple.



- We also went to minister to the Haitian church of St. Louis in the Capital about two hours from my house. Always a blessing to share with the brothers.



## April—516 NOW VISIT



The month of April also brought us the visit of John Barrett and Scott Votey president and secretary of 516 Now the organization we serve. It was so good that they saw and understood God's work among us in DR. We had the opportunity to meet with the director of the Haitian Baptist church association, as well as visit churches, pastors, projects among others.

It was also a time to plan a short- and long-term strategy for the establishment of 516 Now on the island. This visit was very significant for us.



## May—Jacqueline is Back

In this month, little by little Jacqueline began to join the activities of the house. A blessing to have her again. The kids always enjoy cooking with either me or her.



In this month we add to the DR team our brother Jose Montero, a good boy from my local Church. I name him my assistant, we both not are so sure what the title mean, but sounds nice.



As a result of the visit of 516 Now, several blessings were achieved. One of them was the repair of the road of the Faro de Luz Church, a congregation that we supported before in the construction of its chapel. Here some photos of the material.

Soil? for this congregation it is more than that, it is an opportunity to serve their community, to present God's love for his creatures and a wide door that allows them to preach the gospel.

in the photo below Pastor Freddy with men from the community, planning how they will make this Project a success.



"Although it seems that he does not understand what God is doing, we can rest in the truth that He guides us with purpose"

## May— Providence Road Church Conference

From May 24 to 26 with the participation and contribution of Providence Road Church of Miami we launched the first conference for pastors and leaders with the Haitian churches with which we cooperate in DR.

It was a blessing to have the pastors of this congregation who came to serve God's people with love and dedication. They were three intense days of conferences, where topics of leadership, marriage and family were shared.

Thanks to the provision of PRC church we were able to have the participation of 11 churches, 15 pastors and more than 70 leaders who were blessed with books, materials, study bibles, teachings, time of fellowship and more.

"Investing in the kingdom of God, preparing servants for God's fields, where God sent to serve."



Jose, Ernest, Jessi and Jaime



Pastor Jose Abella



Pastor Jessi Crowley





## ALSO IN MAY



In May Emily Stader graduated from Rio Grande Seminary in Texas where she was studying Spanish. In August she will be with Us serving in his work at DR, we hope for many years.



## May 29 to June 16 With Covid

The conference was a great encourage for all. However, in the end just one day before the missionary team left home, we realized that Pastor Jessi Crowley had Covid and the next day I also tested positive.

Brother Jessi stayed a few days with us, without presenting symptoms, while I had a very bad time for more than a week. I lost 21 pounds between fevers, headache and hears, loss of smell and taste. But God, the Sovereign God we spoke about at the beginning strengthened us.



The next day after I tested negative for Covid, we went to finish building a wall in one of the chapels we've been remodeling. We worked for 3 days and thank God, despite the weakness we realized we were improving in health.

At this time, Jacqueline took care of both Pastor Jessi and me, with love, dedication and great faith. Also thank God that despite the exposure to Covid neither she nor the children were hit by the disease.

I now hope you understand the silence and tardiness with the report. After Covid we had to take up many overdue projects, and we were preparing to travel on a mission trip to Colombia where we were invited to participate in a conference.

## Please pray for:

1. Legalization of 516 Now Inc, we are preparing all the necessary documentation to register and be a non-profit organization in DR. .
2. For the location of a good land where the church temple los Tumbaos will be built and where the biblical and missionary seminary will work.
3. For the missionary journey where Emely Stader comes. His family is part of this trip, a missionary team that has already visited us 4 times in the Dominican Republic. August 20 to 29.
4. Please pray for the VBS where we will be doing in our local church on August 24 to 27. We look forward to working with 70 children.
5. For the resources for the launch of the Bible and missionary seminary. We need 10 computers to start with computer courses, and then Bible courses. Pray that God will provide us with a Chrome Book. We hope to start on August 9 with 40 students.
6. Pray for wisdom, for I have been invited to give mission classes to inmates of the Southern Baptist convection mission program in Miami. We will be at PRC Church in October.
7. Pray for the visit of Pastor David Cox of Christ Central Church who wants to continue investing in Nicaragua but also in the Dominican Republic. God will have gates of blessing, this trip is also in october.
8. Pray for our annual trip to the U.S., we look forward to seeing the faces of many of you. We always travel in November to visit churches, pastors and make new friends. We hope the family travels for a few days with us.
9. Pray for patricia Veloz, daughter of one of the Haitian pastors we work with whom we are sending to study at Rio Grande Bible Institute for 4 years. Thanks to the support of brothers who love the work of God, it was possible to obtain the necessary funds, in addition the visa has already been approved and with the favor of God it leaves for Texas next August 7. Pray we still need Support for her travel expenses.

As always thank you very much for your prayers, financial support, love, understanding, words of encourage. Together we carry the gospel to the last of the earth.

Your Family Blandon Guzman: Jaime, Jacqueline, Jaimeline and James