

A Powerful Story

Opening

- Talk about the pastors Hector and Gloria
- The missionary (Katlin and Ryan) (Jorand's)
- Tell of how bountiful the city is.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20 ESV

All of us are called to bring the message of Jesus to everyone near and far.

This team went from Alabama to Colombia to fulfill this

verse. And I can confidently say this morning that we made an impact in the community and made important steps in fulfilling the great commission.

The local Pastor greatly impacted the success of this team. They hosted us well. Fed us good. And most importantly prepared the ground that we were going into with prayer before we got there.

1. The Power of The Story is The Holy Spirit.

“So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:6-8 ESV

Notice what Jesus did not say. He did not say, “You will receive better strategies.”

He did not say, “You will receive more knowledge.” He did not say, “You will receive more confidence.”

He said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and

you will be my witnesses.”

The witness comes after the power.

The early church did not change the world because they had influence.
They

changed the world because they had the Holy Spirit.

Everything we experienced this week traces back to that same promise.
Every

conversation, every divine appointment, every person we met, every word
of

knowledge, every moment where someone felt seen by God—it all started
with the

Holy Spirit leading ordinary people. The Holy Spirit is still drawing people.

The Holy Spirit is still convicting people.

The Holy Spirit is still healing people.

The Holy Spirit is still sending people.

And if we will listen, He will still use us.

2. This Team Has A Story

This morning I want to tell you of what God has done through this team.
There is nothing special or powerful about us. The only power is in the God
that we serve, and His holy Spirit

We spent a lot of time in the parks and streets sharing the gospel by going
person to person. During those times, there were seeds planted, seeds
watered, and harvesting that happened. Today I want to tell you about
those moments but not just tell you, but celebrate what God has done.

1 Corinthians 3:6

I planted, Apollos **watered**, but God gave the growth.

Our team shares

Kerry

Hannah

Lilly

Joni

- 3 students and one of our interpreters were going around praying for people they had

walked into a store and left. After walking about 2 blocks away, one of the students says the Holy Spirit is leading us to go back to the store.

They go back to the store to speak to a lady. When they do, they discover that the lady has a bracelet that is spiritual to her. She thinks it has the power to lead her. She is looking for hope, the students got to tell her about the real hope of the world. The Son of God. That what she was thinking was guiding her was the one thing preventing her from encountering God. The seed was planted. A harvest is near.

- A student was led to speak to a lady. Come to find out she had been facing a lot of troubles. As the conversation progressed, we learned she is a lesbian. Through the talking, we begin to bring the sin to light. She

realized the solution for her problems is a relationship with God, and the start of that is going to be a God-centered relationship between a man and woman. The student begins to lead the girl in worship music. A seed was planted. A harvest is near.

- We had kids praying in the alter last night. A language barrier between them. But while being lead starts praying for healing, heart and broken. After service talking with a translator, the student learns that the lady had lost her son that she loved very much. God was restoring the broken hearted.

- We saw a family being restored because we took the time to speak to a father.

- A student was talking to a guy and girl in a school the Holy Spirt begins to lead her to callout sin and things that are going on in their relationship. What was thriving in darkness was brought to the light. Talking to the couple sexually sin was going on. But because a student lead by the Holy Spirit spoke up, what was hidden is no longer. Restoration is being brought to their relationship with God.

- The first day of ministry we have students that go over and start talking to the police officers. In their conversation with them they learn that she

doesn't like the church because she sees them as hypocrites. I like to say we are imperfect people following a perfect God. But as the conversation continues she goes on to share some church hurt. She realizes she needs to have a relationship with God and get back into church. A seed was planted.

All the stories happened because one built onto the other. I want to encourage you to share with others what is happening in your life.

CAMILLE and the blind man

The City of Barcelona is a city infamous for poverty, drug abuse, and it has no churches.

The plan for the day was to do our usual program, some songs, and some skits... but it started to rain.

Instead of going back to the hotel, our missionary decided we were going to do a prayer ride.

As we rode in the bus we prayed over the city, and that the Holy Spirit would fall.

Suddenly, I felt like the Lord was telling me to stop the bus, and of course, I was skeptical.

I ended up yelling "God's telling me to stop the bus!" and so we did.

It had stopped raining and we walked into this square, as soon as i got off the bus I saw a group of older men, and I knew that's why God wanted us to stop.

I walked over with two friends and I asked for their names. They went down the line, and we reached the last one: Javier.

I was overcome by the Holy Spirit, and I asked him, “you can’t see me can you? your eyes don’t work.”

He then told us he had been blind for 5 years.

I asked if I could pray for him, and while his friends called me crazy, he accepted.

We prayed for him and when he opened his eyes he said all he could see was a big bright white light, and for five years all he had seen was black.

We asked if we could pray for him again, believing he would be healed, and he agreed.

We prayed for him, and when he opened his eyes, he said, “your hair is red! I can see color”

He said he could see color, but he couldn’t see shapes, and he wanted to be able to see across the square.

We prayed for him one last time, and when he opened his eyes, he began to cry.

I stood in front of him and asked “can you see me “ “yes” he answered.

I took a step back: “can you see me” “yes”

I kept taking steps back, and the man could still see me.

We don’t know if Javier accepted Jesus that day, or if he has since then. But I believe with 100% certainty that one day I’ll see him in heaven, and he will remember the young teenager with red hair who prayed for him.

Don't become blind or numb!

- to the mission
- To the Holy Spirit
- To the power of your story
- To what god is doing.

3. You Have A Story.

“As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.”

John 9:1-7 ESV

Jesus heals the man. If you keep reading, you see people start questioning, is

this man the same person? Religious leaders don't believe that it could happen. The Jewish people believe that he's not who he claims to be.

After being questioned many times they question him again. They ask is Jesus a sinner. And he answered in verse 25 with his story.

"He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.""

John 9:25 ESV

He doesn't have all the answers. He can't explain every detail. But he refuses to

stay silent about what Jesus has done.

The miracle gave him sight, but his testimony gave him a voice.

Many of us feel unqualified to share our faith because they don't know enough

Scripture, don't have all the answers, or aren't comfortable speaking in front of

others. Many times we don't want people to know the old us. But God has given

every believer a story. Your testimony is evidence of God's grace at work in your life.

The blind man's testimony was simple:

"I was blind. Jesus changed that. Now I can see." Our testimony may sound different:

- I was lost, and Jesus found me.
- I was broken, and Jesus restored me.
- I was far from God, and Jesus brought me near.

The Human Story is Universal

God loves us; He created us to live in a relationship with him. We rebel against his good plan and make ourselves slaves to sin. He sets us free with a deliverer, ultimately Jesus the Messiah.

You can share your story with neighbors, coworkers, you can serve at local schools and share your story and help students share their story, you can go with us on outreaches on July 22nd and share your story, you can go with us next summer to share your story across the ocean.

Prayer Model

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