

Pray without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17). For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12). May the Father give you a spirit of revelation about how great is His power toward you who believe (Eph. 1: 17-23).

This year I was privileged to work with brothers and sisters in some of the darkest places in the world. Yet, I walk away deeply encouraged and full of hope. Whether amid the Ukrainian war, cartel infested countries, or poverty and fatherlessness, these faithful and courageous servants of the King find that although the suffering is real, His presence, protection, and provision are too. The light of the Kingdom of God continues to shine in the depths of darkness as His servants follow His lead. Together, we are discovering the power of prayer and our authority in Christ (referenced above).



daughter, Danielle, co-trains TBRI with me!

One by one, lives and communities, and even nations, are being transformed. I wish I had time to tell you all the stories. Here is one:

Two young, highly educated and beautiful young ladies in their mid-thirties are separately called to the same isolated, cartel run region of a South American country (unnamed for security purposes). The cartels run the police, the schools, the hospitals, etc. Everything goes through them. The children are mostly neglected and often abused. They are fodder to be used at the whims and wishes of the cartels. Why would God call two young ladies here?

Years ago, they started a day center where neighborhood youth could get healthy meals, experience constructive activities, receive educational help, and address mental health and spiritual needs. The number of attending youth has grown each year. All are somehow connected to the cartels. The ladies' favorite little six-year-old boy happened to be the nephew of the cartel boss. In the past year, they noticed signs of abuse and brought this situation up at one of our TBRI trainings. The mother was afraid to do anything for fear of her life. To make things worse, a "good cop" notified the ladies that they were nearing the top of a cartel hit list as other targets were eliminated. They went to their local pastor for advice, who told them, "Flee immediately!" With only their backpacks, they did just that.



Danielle & Melinda with the two young ladies

They have been on the run for the past year. They moved a lot. Yet, they continued to go back and check on the children and do what they could for brief periods of time before leaving again. And they prayed! They prayed for wisdom, for their protection, for the protection of this little boy and all the children, and that somehow the Lord would intervene to rescue them. We joined them in these prayers. The Lord gave us wisdom and them a strategy.

They anointed the door posts of their facility and the boundary of all their property. They connected with the mother for buy-in on the strategy. The Lord provided two significant allies, one in the medical field and one in social services. As a result, this case was elevated to the highest level of attention, even though everyone involved knew the cartel connection of this little boy. The details of how these allies revealed themselves and how this case got elevated involve several significant miracles too involved to tell here. But be assured, many miracles had to happen. Keep in mind, all this was going on while these two young ladies were coming and going, still on the run.

Just before this case was to be adjudicated, the cartel uncle and all his cartel leader brothers were arrested for unrelated crimes, convicted and thrown in prison. The case got adjudicated in such a way that the little boy and his mother are rescued. And the cherry on top, due to this case, is that social services changed significant policies to protect all children going forward!

My mouth was literally hanging open as the ladies updated me on this story at our October training. With tears in her eyes, one of the women said to me, ***“Can you believe what our Father did for one little boy?!”*** In complete shock, I said, “Yes! But it sounds to me like He also took care of the entire system and all the other vulnerable children at the same time!” The women think they are now in the clear to move back in-country, full time. Our faith is exceedingly encouraged, as is our impetus to pray.

Others told of prayers resulting in favor granted from cartel leaders to deal with vulnerable children in two other countries. And the epic story of revival and government change in El Salvador was recounted in detail (Look it up on Google.). Nevertheless, a colleague in Peru called days before our TBRI training to say his team couldn’t make it, as they were being threatened at gun point by the local cartel to turn over their large orphanage and surrounding property. The war rages on. The battle is in the heavenlies.

In this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas let us rejoice that our God reigns! Let us be faithful in prayer and obedience to see His Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Thank you for partnering with me to bring it to the areas I am privileged to go.

For the One and Many More,



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Melinda, South America TBRI Training

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