

Greetings friends!

March has been a busy month! As I look back, I can see the fingerprints of God's faithfulness over each day as He brought various opportunities to serve Him in this city. Thank you for those who have been praying about my requests in last month's updates, because the Lord has been specifically answering!

1. For the last 2 of 7 total board members needed: Number 6 has been confirmed, and a potential Number 7 reached out to me to express her interest in being part of Koinonia wherever I needed her! Please pray for continued wisdom as we seek to complete this very important founding team.

2. For guidance and wisdom in the NGO (non-governmental organization) development of Cafe Koinonia: I have been making concrete progress on the development of the *business* side of Koinonia via regular meetings with a good friend/successful entrepreneur (which I have lovingly dubbed "Business Boot Camps"). God has also been revealing His heart for the reach of this ministry beyond just a coffee shop, and has truly been proving that **He can do more than I can even imagine** with my limited vision - specifically by using Koinonia as a "Jobs Preparedness Ministry".

I have always known that a big part of Cafe Koinonia's mission would be the discipleship (both spiritually and practically) of the staff members/baristas. But through various discussions and reading material I've come across, I have realized that "Job Preparedness/Training" is actually a fairly developed form of ministry for non-profit organizations! It was such a relief to discover that I do not have to "reinvent the wheel", as I have explored various curriculum developed by churches and Christian ministries that teach "soft skills" (responsibility, work ethic, teamwork, etc.) from a biblical perspective.

For Koinonia specifically, I have been working to develop a plan for how participants will work through a portion of the soft skill curriculum, work in the cafe to apply those skills, continue with the curriculum, and save some of their earnings to then contribute a small percentage of the cost of higher training (official barista course, chef license, or even an unrelated industry of their choosing) for which Koinonia would cover the rest of the cost through proceeds from the coffee shop. This is a very important aspect of the NGO application I have been working on with the lawyer that must be defined to ensure approval by the Honduran government, so it is exciting to have some direction!

3. For the times of waiting and working: As mentioned before, God brought various opportunities during March for me to partner with different ministries that are already established here as I await the opening of my own:

- I have continued to spend my Wednesdays with the School of Hope team, going into the public schools of the "Nueva Capital" community in Tegucigalpa, formed as a result of Hurricane Mitch in 1998, when entire communities were forced away from their homes to settle on higher ground on the outskirts of Tegucigalpa. While the people of this community may be materially poor, spending time in the schools has revealed a richness of hope displayed by the teachers and students I have been getting to know. Schools of Hope hosted 3 different missions teams from Canada this month, so I enjoyed meeting "extended family" of the Body of Christ and partnering with the Bible lessons they planned. Seeing the students engaged in the lessons, and many expressing faith in Christ and knowledge of the Bible stories gives me so much hope for the next generation of Honduras!

- I also had the privilege of returning to my former employer, the International School of Tegucigalpa, to serve as the keynote speaker for their elementary Spiritual Emphasis Week on March 21st-24th. Each day, the 1st-5th grade classes gathered for one hour to worship together and focus on a different portion of the "Easter Week" account in Scripture. After viewing a short pantomime-drama of the focus Scripture, I shared a teaching of a characteristic of Jesus we encounter in the account, and our response to that characteristic. We even had a live lamb represent "Jesus is the Lamb, I must be purified by Him" on the day we learned about Jesus' arrest/trial! (check out my blog for pictures in the link below!). At the end of the week, there was an invitation for students to accept Christ as their personal Savior, and over 40 students made a confession of faith! Praise God! I had encouraged teachers to follow up with their students individually, and have heard from one fifth grade teacher that one of her most difficult students accepted Christ that day, and she has already had opportunity to disciple him as he begins to allow the Lord to transform His actions! I was humbled to have been an agent through which the Lord brought His message, and I enjoyed reconnecting with former students and coworkers throughout the week.

Please join me in prayer this next month for the following:

1. That the Word of the Lord being planted in the hearts of students both at International School and the Nueva Capital public schools would continue to take root, grow, and be protected from the ways the enemy would seek to steal the seeds.

2. The aftermath of a large fire that broke out (apparently purposely) in one area of Tegucigalpa on Wednesday of this past week. While most of the area was forestry, the surrounding community has been affected by the land damage and heavy smoke. I actually happened to be staying on a property within a few hundred yards to the fire on the night it happened, but God was faithful in not only protecting those of us there, but also in gathering the community members together to help fight the spread of the fire until fire departments could respond. It was quite an experience to stand among fellow believers with the tree-height flames in view, praying protection over the community and declaring the Lord's victory over the schemes of the enemy. Friends, there is great power in prayer!

3. Continued financial provision, connections, and resources needed for Cafe Koinonia. We are up to \$13,000 of the needed \$30,000 budget - praise the Lord! - thanks to many generous hearts at Evangel Heights Church and a God-connection with The Lobby Coffee Bar at Chesapeake Church in Huntingtown, MD! God has been good, and there is more in store!

Thank you again for your support and prayers! You are extremely valuable to me and the ministry God has called me to in Honduras! Stay updated throughout the month via my blog site at <https://mylifeinpencilblog.wordpress.com/> (You can read past posts by clicking the menu drop-down button!)

Blessings,
Lindsey Kalk
Cafe Koinonia