

The 18.26 Network

A New Wave of Missions



Summer 2022 — Member Chronicles: By Jeremy Kim

Snapshots of Jeremy's journey to Colombia

Background: Before Leaving

After I came back from a short term trip to Guatemala with OMC: Family Chapel church in 2017, I made a 5 year commitment to go on a mid term trip. Although it was a windy road, 5 years later in 2022, the doors opened up for me to be able to serve in Colombia. I'll be doing vocational missions, which means that I'll be working remotely full time, while serving at the church plant at night and on the weekends. I'll be helping out with English club, youth group/college, and Sunday services, among other things that they may need support with. If all goes according to plan, I will be in Colombia from July to December.



Theological Fuel for the Journey

The ultimate goal of God is His glory enjoyed and exalted among all nations. While this is the ultimate goal of God, there are currently over 3 billion unreached people in the world today. To be unreached does not just mean to be lost. It does not refer to someone's status before God, but rather, it refers to their access to the Gospel. For someone who is unreached, the likelihood is that they will be born, live, and die without ever meeting a Christian or hearing the Gospel.

Now, why does this matter? It matters because unreached people have enough knowledge about God to be judged (Romans 1:19-20), but not enough to be saved. You may ask what happens to the people around the world who haven't heard about Jesus? The reality is that we are all sinners (Romans 3:23), no one is innocent, and therefore all are deserving of God's judgment. What is it that saves us? It's Christ that saves, but in order for someone to believe in Christ, they have to hear of Christ first, and how will they hear unless someone is preaching the Gospel to them? (Romans 10:14). God's plan to reach the nations is found in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), which involves the proclamation of the Gospel, the formation of disciples, and the multiplication of the church. The Great Commission is not a general command to make as many disciples as possible. Rather, it is a specific command to make disciples among all the nations.



Current Update from the Field

I've made it to Rionegro, Colombia safely! I've been here for about a week and have started to settle into a daily rhythm. Walking to get a daily coffee and pastry for \$1USD is a tough thing to beat!

The first Sunday after I arrived, the church had their first ever congregational meeting, where they went over the values, vision, and plan for the church for the next 12 months. Although I ended up being at church for 6+ hours, it was a blessing to see a new church plant have their first congregational meeting and see the members engaged in the future of the church. It was a good reminder of what it takes to build a church, what a healthy church looks like, and the intentionality required to "do church well".



That following Tuesday, we had English Club. There were 5 people total - myself, John (one of the missionaries), and three students. Because it was a smaller group, we played Apples to Apples, which was a fun way to help them converse in English. Afterwards, one of the students had to go, but four of us got Colombian street food and enjoyed fellowship together. The two students who ate with us don't go to church, so it was a good time to get to know them and start building a relationship with them.

This newsletter is called "Blessed to Bless" and the inspiration comes from Genesis 12:2, where God tells Abraham: "And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." God blesses His people, not just for their own sake, but so that they will use those blessings to bless those around them and ultimately bring glory to God.

Prayer Requests

Would you pray that God would open doors for me to meet people and build relationships with them? Would you also pray that I would be bold for the sake of the Gospel and not be shy when I have opportunities to meet people?

Network Growth | An Encouraging General Assembly 2022

Reunions and networking in Birmingham, Alabama and beyond!



The 18.26 Network made many new friends at our General Assembly booth in June, our signup sheets filled up quickly. Jud was able to meet a number of new key partners and discuss what strategic partnership might look like with them. He will be following up on that in the next few months. A lot of old friends came by to visit as well. Perhaps the greatest blessing was to see 18.26 Network members at GA and shortly afterward: we got to spend time with Michael Flayhart and Sarah Harris. Seeing members is always a special treat as we are so spread out around the globe. Jud and Jan plan to make a couple of trips this year to some of the places where our members live and work. Seeing folks at GA was a reminder of just how special that is.

Did you know? | Prayer team

The 18.26 Team and prayer partners are always praying for our members and ministry! This crucial piece of our work is led by Jan Lamos. At General Assembly, we had several visitors sign up and we are now up to **70 prayer partners!** Interested in being one of them? Please email Jan to receive monthly prayer requests at jan@1826network.com

“There is no way that Christians, in a private capacity, can do so much to promote the work of God and advance the kingdom of Christ as by prayer.” Jonathan Edwards



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1. Sustainable faith in a radical, restless world

MICHAEL HORTON

Resource Hub | Recommended by our Members

by Andy Duncan, Japan

Those looking to engage in purposeful and focused Involvement with the global Christian community as bivocational missionaries often come out of the gate with grand aspirations. Sadly, these aspirations are rarely achieved. They weren't realistic or appropriate to begin with. I've found this for myself.

I've wanted to be engaged in deeply meaningful and purposeful Christian living but then feel a sense of letdown when I find myself constrained by boring daily life, boring daily work and raising a family. I often feel unable to do what I think the full time missionaries get to do because I'm a "mere part time helper." For bivocational workers in foreign countries we generally live lives that aren't much different than what they would have had back in our home country.

This is where Michael Horton's book 'Ordinary' is tremendously helpful. Although not written with bivocational overseas ministry in mind it fits the bill perfectly. In this book Michael sets the reader up as an ordinary Christian in an ordinary place doing ordinary things in an ordinary church glorifying Christ in ordinary ways. He builds the reader up to see the grace and the working hand of God in what might even be considered mundane. This book is a must read for all bivoc people looking to really place themselves in their local communities as they look to see the grace and value in the daily lives they live, the daily work they do, the daily cultivation of family and in daily/weekly life and worship of the churches to which they belong.

For more information on our ministry, email debbi@1826network.com or visit our website 1826network.com!