



Equipping Servants: Disciples Making Disciples

August 2024 UPDATE - Kep and Debbie James

1. Encouraging News from African Students:

We have received positive reports from the African students we mentored through the Book of Romans earlier this year in Mali and Senegal, West Africa. Please pray for these students as they now work in small teams within challenging Muslim communities, that they will plant solid gospel-centered churches and boldly make Christ known. Pray for the Lord's guidance as they continue studying the Bible daily, to grasp its message of Jesus and the gospel, to walk faithfully in Christ, and to faithfully teach and preach the Bible.

2. Equipping Servants/Disciples Making Disciples (ESI) in Rwanda:

Pray for 290 lead pastors in Rwanda who are studying Romans with Paulo. These pastors are preparing to lead ESI groups within their local churches. Pray for strength, wisdom, and dedication as they guide their congregations in spiritual growth and discipleship.

3. Growth in New US ESI Groups:

New Equipping Servants/Disciples Making Disciples (ESI) groups have recently started in Norfolk, Virginia, and Los Angeles among Spanish-speaking pastors. Pray that these groups will see Jesus clearly in the Bible, grow in their love for Him, and experience deep transformation through the power of the gospel.

4. Progress in London-Based African ESI Groups:

Pray for the African pastors based in London who received training to start ESI groups last month. Three new ESI groups have now started. Ask God that the study of His Word will profoundly impact their lives and the African churches in London they lead.

5. Continued Growth of ESI Groups:

Pray for the 3,000 participants in 250 ESI groups spread across 32 countries. Since 2002, there have been 3,200 graduates. Pray that these pastors and ministry leaders will grow strong in the grace found in Christ Jesus as they study and live out the Scriptures.

6. Continued Faithfulness of ILC Church in Bolivia:

Pray for the ILC Church that Kep and Debbie planted in Bolivia in 1990. Pray that its leadership will continue to honor Christ by staying true to His Scriptures, leading the church with integrity and faithfulness.

Upcoming Travels:

- August 26-September 2: Kep and Debbie with the ministry in Cairo, training church planting training school leaders.
- September 4-7: Kep and Debbie with Elias in Lisbon to start ESI in Portugal.
- September 20-21: Elias in Paris, training ESI Facilitators with Pastor Marcelo.
- October 3-13: Kep and Debbie with Billy King -- ESI pastors conferences in Rio and Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- October 22-25: Kep and Debbie attend planning meeting with ESI Latin American Country leaders in Colombia.
- October 28-31: Kep and Debbie with Paulo in Liberia leading ESI follow-up workshop.

You might find advice from Alan Stibbs encouraging -- from his classical work, 'Understanding, Expounding and Explaining God's Word' (used in "ESI Guide to Bible Interpretation"):

"The purpose of understanding the Bible is to walk with God in this life. He calls us to follow Christ in faithfulness. When you study the Bible, strive to apply its truth immediately to your life. Do not read the Bible as a detached spectator or curious student whose only concern is to discover information about what it says! Rather, see it as a mirror – with God's help, see yourself as God sees you, and who you are becoming in Christ! Consider first how the passage you are studying directly affects your own needs and problems, failings and temptations, responsibilities and duties. Use questions such as these to ask God to teach you: What is God saying to me in this passage right now? What can I learn about my daily life? What can I learn about how to live a life pleasing to God? Ask Him to continually transform your life through the gospel. Your daily need to seek God first and do His will is a never-ending priority for you as a believer. On this side of heaven, we will never attain perfection; every day brings new challenges. The path is uphill the entire way. You will face temptations to abandon the standards you once held. No reformation can place an individual or church on a permanent path of righteous living. You must continually return to God, examining your faith and obedience daily in light of God's Word. Let the Bible warn you when you veer from His path. Be ever learning and growing in holiness and love. Only then can you make progress in knowing Him and walking with Him! The only way to grow in Christ is by submitting continually to what the Bible warns and teaches, understanding that each of us has the responsibility before God to apply God's Truth to our life. This is your Christian calling; it is the only way to grow in Christ from being born anew until we see Him face to face!"

Your prayers are vital for gospel growth and impact.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kep & Debbie James". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kep and Debbie James

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