

# Kaitlynn's Newsletter

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA | JANUARY-JUNE 2023



**Featured:** A group of us doing a bible study in one of the surrounding farms near Socotá.

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND THE BIBLE

This year I started my internship as part of my ordination process with the ELCA. I share a bit about that on the second page. However, I am still continuing with my work with Justicia y Vida, the project I accompany here in Colombia. This year the idea is for me to focus my support in Socotá with the goal of working with local leaders and engaging them in conversation about what community looks like and how they want it to look. This development and conversation is happening through a series of bible studies. The Bible teaches us a lot about being community, how to engage with one another, and how we are called into action to make our communities better.



**Featured above:** The Justicia and Vida's team doing visits in Socotá. From left to right - me, Adi and her son, Maricela, and Juan Pablo.

The people who participate in the projects and church live all over the mountain and walk about 2-3 hours to get to the church building. During the rainy season or for those with children, who are older, or those with health issues, it can be a challenge and the distance can keep them from participating. So we decided to do the bible studies in the homes of the leaders. It allows us all to build better relationships and allows different people to host and help lead the space.

This year, coal mining has become a main focus for many people in Socotá. Many people have land with coal and this shift to making mining the number source of income is a challenge for the project. However, we know that in doing justice work there are always challenging moments, and those moments call for adaptation and innovation.

Follow my journey through social media



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# PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for all those who are sick, ill, or facing difficulties with their health. Let us pray also for mother earth and ask for forgiveness for all damage we are doing.

Let us pray for all those who are feeling ostracized and excluded from society. We pray they find acceptance and we pray that as a society we can learn to love all people as they are.

The picture to the right is of a Sunday morning at the congregation where I am doing my internship and the picture below is of me doing the devotional at the project connected to the church.



This year I have started my internship in one of the IELCO churches in Bogota. My internship is a part-time internship so I can still respond to my role as a missionary. During these first few months, I preach and lead worship 1-2 times a month and do visits to members of the congregation. I also lead devotionals at the IELCO project that is connected to the church. The project works with migrants (mostly from Venezuela), and people with different abilities (many of whom are deaf). So while my Spanish is getting better, I am also slowly learning sign language to be able to communicate with everyone at the project. I am really enjoying being connected to a local congregation and being able to spend lots of time with one community.

## HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY?

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