

Dear Friends,

Success in God's kingdom should not be measured in assets, earnings or even numbers; it should always be measured in individual lives; lives that become effective instruments in the hands of God for the expansion of His kingdom. That is why I thought about writing this note about my recent trip to Bogota from the perspective of two lives: **Pastor Tuto & Johana, the maid.**



Tuto was one of the first ones to join me as we started the church from scratch in 2011; he was our youth pastor. One year into the plant he told me that he was being called out of youth pastorate, but after fifteen years serving kids, he was very afraid of working with adults. **I took Tuto under my wing for the following years. The church paid for his master's degree in church leadership, and he eventually became our executive pastor. When the Lord showed Sandra and me that we were to return to the USA, He told me that Tuto would be the one taking over the work.** I believe that Tuto's ministry is about to take off; the two-year transition is over and they are in the location that he scouted out and purchased. They are in position for the church to flourish under his vision. His leadership is already impacting the 'Confraternidad' denomination, which gave us the legal and spiritual backing to start Vida Bogota.

Preaching at the church's new facility was exhilarating... don't get me wrong... especially because we had raised the funds for it before I left, but I did not get to make the purchase. **However, seeing Tuto and Johana functioning in their God-given purposes was even more thrilling.** I had two weeks of packed ministry in Colombia, and at every event I saw lives that were reached and projected by the Lord to work in His kingdom.



Johana was our maid for the last four years we were in Bogota. She was a shy, downtrodden, uneducated, and abused young lady with three kids from three different men. We loved on Johana and took her and her children in as part of our family. We encouraged her to go back to school on the weekends and helped to make it happen; she even finished some graduate schooling after we left. Johana is no longer a maid. She is now a loving, self-assured follower of Jesus who became the office manager at the maids company where she used to work. She also serves at Vida Bogota on Sundays. Johana's kids are involved in the church programs and they will most likely stop the curse of poverty and relational bankruptcy that had plagued their family for so long.



Thank you for making all this possible....
Together we continue touching lives.

In Him, *Manuel & Sandra*