

Words to Inspire: Spring Edition

Dear Richard,

I'm sitting by our fireplace looking out over the brown grass that recently appeared since my last letter, written while in Colombia. From the snowstorms of February to the promise of this new season, Spring. Oh, the HOPE of new life, the dead of winter to sprouting crocuses and daffodils.

My three-week trip to Colombia is now a wonderful memory. Before I leave this journey behind, I want to share with you a side trip I took on March 2-4. I left my Canadian team and flew to Medellin.

I don't speak Spanish, so travelling on my own gave me pause, but I quickly remembered that my constant companion is the Lord Himself—who could better help me if needed? I talked a lot to my travelling partner and arrived safely and on time. Hilary, Darren, and Mark made sure that I was well looked after, but it was delightful to remember that I am never alone.

This addition to the Women Together mission gave me the opportunity to join my nephew Mark, his wife Karen, and their son Nathan, at the Prison Fellowship International gathering in the beautiful city of Medellin.

A small group from Canada and the US met with organizers of Prison Fellowship Colombia. PFI was founded by Chuck Colson over forty years ago, and I was able to observe some of the wonderful programs this Christian organization offers.

The introduction on Sunday night included a talk from the Colombian director, Lácides Hernández. I was struck by the accountability, forgiveness, and making amends that is required of the prisoners. Victims, offenders, and community members meet and decide how to bring reconciliation, and the results are transformative. In fact, it is called transformative justice.



One offender shared his story, which included murders. At the end, he broke down and sobbed while asking forgiveness of everyone in the room, including me. He grieved over the suffering he had caused the victims.



A community worker offered her embrace to the offender. The many photos on the wall behind are of victims, either missing or deceased.

I left copies of the four English WOW studies to be used as needed in the prisons. I believe God has more for the WOW series in women's prisons. Perhaps that is why I had the extra journey to Medellin.

Nepal

Shusma Adhikari, our Nepal Words To Inspire coordinator, inspires many women to step out and teach God's Word through the WOW series. Recently, an eager group of thirty-nine gathered to dig into

Woman of Wisdom. On March 26, graduation day celebrated their good attendance and completion of their workbook.



Just look at the women all receiving their Words To Inspire certificate for completing Woman of Wisdom. Can't you sense the joy on their faces?

Shusma writes: "These two months have birthed more strong women who are so determined to walk in covenant with Jesus and teach others in their home church. In the group of thirty-nine, there were eight women church leaders with us. All glory to God!"



Testimonies from two participants:



Shusma with Pratima (on Shusma's left) and Parbati (on Shusma's right)

Pratima: “I have read the story of Ruth so many times but never received the insight you have shared here. Like Ruth, now I am determined to walk with our God of covenant and partner with Him to heal the broken world. This study changed me from the inside and filled me with more passion for Jesus, our Boaz.”





Parbati: (Shusma shares Parbati's testimony) Parbati was about to leave Kathmandu and go back to her village, leaving her husband and church behind. Hurt and the pain of rejection left her in a backslidden state. She came to our WOW study and God touched her. Now she is helping other prodigals to come home! Hallelujah! Now Parbati and her husband are discipling 25 people, giving her confidence to plant a church. Woman of Wisdom gave her understanding of how to read the Bible deeply. She is hungry for more of God, His word and Spirit. We observed how Parbati has matured spiritually and how her passion for the lost has deepened. All glory to God.

Also in Nepal

The Woman of Worship translation is nearing completion. Please pray for Ram and Milan as Ram completes the translation and together, they will review the entire text. All four books should soon be available. We

pay for the translation costs and five hundred copies to provide Shusma and her team enough books to get started.

I always search for words to express my appreciation for your support, prayers, and donations to Words To Inspire. God has been faithful to prompt others to give for the projects that God has given WTI. Since we do not have charitable status, it's clear that the donations we receive are because you believe in what WTI is doing for the Kingdom.

Please continue to pray for the work of Words To Inspire...Empowering Others With God's Word.

Should God prompt you to partner with WTI by donating either a one-time gift or monthly, we would be incredibly grateful.

Until next month, may God richly bless you.

Joyfully serving,

Ruth