

Reed Reflections *...from the desk of Judy Reed*

Helping train Kingdom workers from developing nations

March 2023

Ripples

After a five-hour boat trip and a 20-minute hike, Manuel carries Yorlenny and their gear across a shallow stretch of sea to arrive at a small island in Panama.



Manuel and Yorlenny Porras



You've met Manuel and Yorlenny Porras in some of our previous newsletters, but I want to share more about their family and ministry in this letter. We've

mentioned that Yorlenny is one of Robert's students in a Master's course at ProMETA, and that Manuel and Yorlenny are missionary colleagues of ours in Costa Rica. Yorlenny and I have met online weekly for two years to encourage and pray with each other. Yorlenny came to visit us in December of last year. She and Manuel have two grown children, Stephanie and Andy, pictured on page two.

This delightful and dedicated couple works with people of various indigenous groups, mostly in Costa Rica but sometimes in nearby countries. They travel to different villages and teach courses to train indigenous pastors and youth workers (most pastors in developing nations have had no formal biblical or theological training so this is a big need); they also teach practical community development courses which help improve the economy of families and villages. (See pictures on page 3.)

We'd love to have you join us in praying for a reliable four-wheel drive vehicle to get Manuel and Yorlenny to the villages they visit, as the terrain can be almost impassable for regular cars sometimes.

Health Update

It's been a while since we've updated you on some of the health issues for which we could use prayer. Robert's blood pressure still sometimes (too often) spikes to dangerous levels. One of his doctors labeled it resistant hypertension—difficult to control. We have no doubt that God is fully able to heal him. Kidney function is another area that could use prayer. And of course diabetes and all of the damage it tends to do to the body.



My biggest challenge is fairly severe and resistant insomnia. It is not unusual for me to get three or four hours of sleep at night. I'm delighted when I get six or seven hours of sleep! I've tried so many different treatments with little success. I'm grateful that God sustains me, but I would sure love to sleep well! Fatigue and head-to-toe neuropathy also present challenges. Thanks for praying.

Thank You, Amazing Team!

God is calling more and more people in developing nations to serve Him by taking the Good News around the globe. They need training in order to be as effective as possible. Robert is applying his many years of academic experience in teaching, course development, and program development in his work with ProMETA to provide the best training possible to Hispanic Kingdom workers. **Thank you** for investing in us and our ministry through your friendship, prayers, and gifts. May God multiply back to you all you do for us!

Praise and Prayer

- Pray for Robert's and my health and for energy to throw ourselves with vigor into the ministry we love.
- Pray for a four-wheel drive vehicle and increased support for Manuel and Yorlenny.
- Continue to pray for my sister Sylvia and her husband Andy as they await the arrival in Papua New Guinea of the printed Kaluli New Testament, and prepare for its dedication and distribution. Satan hates it when people get God's Word in their language and often attacks with venom. Please pray for the protection of everyone related in any way to this ministry. God is ever so much stronger than the enemy!!

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Additional Photos



Manuel training a group of Cabecar people in the fundamentals of discipleship and how to prepare Bible lessons.



Manuel and Yorlenny with an indigenous family.



Yorlenny teaching baking which gives folks a way to earn money. Andy looks on.



A sample of what they learn how to make.



Yorlenny takes every possible opportunity to share spiritually with the women as well.



Into this little vehicle they pack up to five people and whatever gear they need. It is a two-wheel drive car and lacks power for some of the roads. Also, it is a brand that is uncommon in Costa Rica and very hard to find parts for when it breaks down. **We'd love to have you join us in praying for a reliable four-wheel drive vehicle to get Manuel and Yorlenny to the villages they visit, as the terrain can be almost impassable for regular cars. Please also pray for much-needed increased support** for this dear missionary couple. Like us, they can be supported through Partners in Joy (www.partners-in-joy.org and look for their ministry in the ministries drop-down and click on the donate button. Or send a check to Partners in Joy—see address on page two).