

A God Story from Colombia

Written by Michelle J. Goff

During the Colombia mission trip in July, the second stop was Armenia, where IRSM teammate and Speaker Ambassador, Francia Oviedo, and her husband, Oscar, work with a church plant in the northern part of the city. A couple weeks ago, that region suffered the effects of a 7.4-magnitude earthquake and continues to experience aftershocks. Thank you for your continued prayers for the Oviedos and others affected.

While in Armenia, I was able to meet Tania, a year-ish-old Christian sister who is battling cancer yet allowing God to use her as a light amongst other cancer patients and their families. Her joy in the Lord was infectious, and I was delighted to meet her at the ladies' class that Wednesday night.

Pictured: Tania, second from the left on the back row



Juan José, her 17-year-old son, arrived after we started and assisted Oscar with photography and snack preparation behind the scenes. Immediately following the class, Tania approached me and told me that her son needed to tell me a story...

A brand-new Christian, he was struggling with what to do about his relationship with his girlfriend of three years. She was not as interested in God, the Bible, or church as he had hoped she would be. One afternoon, he specifically prayed to God for guidance to know what to do.



Pictured: Michelle listens as Juan José shares his testimony



A few minutes later, he “randomly” decided to open the book his mom was reading that she had left on the table, [*One Single Reason: Conversations with Single Women*](#). He “happened” to open to the page in which I share that my mom prays for me to find partners in the Gospel (Php 1:5). I next share the passage about the importance of not being unequally yoked with an unbeliever (2Co 6:14-18).

“It was amazing!” he recounted. “Right after I prayed for God to give me an answer, I opened your book and read the answer.”

Juan José then proceeded to pray about how to communicate his decision to his girlfriend. The next time they got together, they both said they needed to talk about something. He let her go first. She expressed that since he had been baptized, she saw how much he was so totally into God and church and “all those things.” She admitted that she was not and was not going to be. So, she felt like they needed to break up.



Juan José felt like God answered his prayers again by sparing her feelings and allowing it to be a mutual decision. While he is still grieving the loss after having been together for three years, he is grateful for God's clear and prompt answer to his very specific prayer.

What a blessing to be a witness to how God works and to have been used by God as one small part of this young brother's story. I cannot wait to see how else God blesses, guides, and uses him in the future!

Thank you for your prayers for this family and the many other Colombian families we have recently been blessed to connect with and equip in ways that only God knows. May He get all the glory!

