

# A FAMILY ON MISSION

*Jesus & Kalon Martinez*

## *Who is in Control?*

"Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" - yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." James 4:13-15

The year 2020 was certainly a year of trusting and abiding in the Lord's will! Our man-made plans were thrown out the window and our "normal" idea of control over our days was tried and tested. In addition to the global pandemic, our personal lives were thrown unexpectedly into a string of health issues, most of which have been resolved for now or are continuing to heal slowly. It was not the year that "Jesus and Kalon" planned, but it certainly was a powerful year nonetheless because the Lord is good in all His ways and these are the days that He ordained for us! We hope this mission update finds you well and in deeper relationship with our Lord, no matter what your circumstances were or are, as we all continue to navigate a quickly changing world.



Dunbar, Ft Myers FL

This newsletter is a quick overview of a few big changes in our family ministry, as well as a progress report on what God has been doing in the midst of a global pandemic! Please join us in praise & prayers as we share our lives with you. Thank you for your continued support and encouragements. We are honored and humbled to represent our Lord in these uncertain times, and to "seek the fruit that increases to your credit." Thank you.

*"And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful."*

- Titus 3:14

## 2020 RECAP & HIGHLIGHTS

### New Partnerships:

- The Table Network
- Ft Myers Community Church
- McGregor Baptist Church
- Missionary Church

### New Praise:

- 28 Baptisms!!
- 2 fruitful trips to Cuba (pre-covid)!
- Jesus became an ordained Pastor!
- Church has formed in our home!

### Continued Prayers:

- Need for sufficient funding
- Continued physical healing
- Greater miracles and works!
- Wisdom in leadership

*Those who believed were of one heart and soul. Acts 4:32*

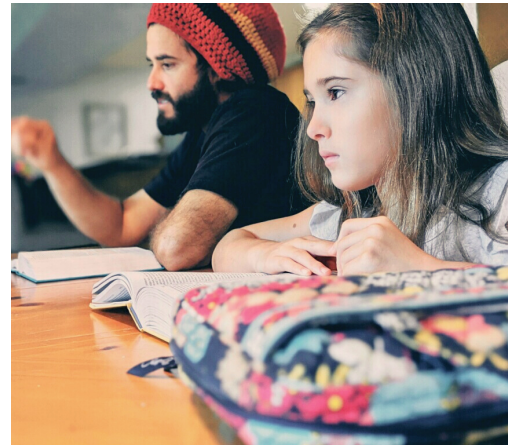


## A CHANGE IN PARTNERSHIP

In the months leading up to November of 2020, the Lord made it clear to us that we were not to renew our commitment to Ride Nature but instead return to full-time ministry as a family. We are grateful for the time that we could share our gifts of ministry with Ride Nature and ask that you continue to pray heartily for their team! We have now partnered with The Table Network as the organizational base from which we operate as "A Family on Mission." We stepped out in faith (certainly not by sight!) and have been encouraged every step of the way as God has opened the doors of His choosing and made our path clear. All that you know of us as missionaries continues to be true, with the addition of what you'll read about below!

## A PASTOR'S LIFE & HOUSE CHURCH

In July of last year at the height of the pandemic and isolation fatigue, the Lord strongly impressed upon Jesus the call to begin church gatherings within our home. With respect to the risks of Covid-19, we began gathering on Sundays for in-person potluck lunch, prayer, study and worship. In December of 2020 Jesus was officially ordained as a pastor and our gatherings have grown to 3x a week, as well as Friday men's bible study and daily one-on-one discipleship with those whom the Lord has entrusted us to shepherd. The results of our obedience to God's call has been incredible. Praise God that 28 people have been baptized and are continuing discipleship! May His awesome works of reconciliation & redemption continue to multiply!



## DISCIPLESHIP & GATHERINGS

Covid-19 threw the entire world into disarray. Only a mighty God could take something like this and use it also for good! As the comfortable bubble of American Christianity was shaken with the shutting down of formal churches, the Lord was making a way for greater intimacy and devotion among His people. Gathering small groups in warm homes, with intentionality and a curious commitment to one another - this is a powerful opportunity for God's people in our country! It's nothing new, yet it's easily underestimated. There is power in the gathering of the body, in the "loving of one another," and in one-on-one daily discipleship. Thanks to your support and prayers, we are able to provide the spaces, the time, and the resources needed to run forward in this all-consuming direction, in stride with the Holy Spirit, and to the best of our ability.

*They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread and prayers Acts 2:42*



## FEED MY SHEEP

Faithfully, the Lord keeps multiplying our loaves & fishes! We steadily serve around 100 home-cooked meals in our home each week, and it has become a true joy to nourish the body and bring warmth to the soul while we minister to those who join us. God in the flesh dwelt among us and shared meals over and over again. Scriptures make it clear that Jesus desired intimacy with us, to hear our stories and know our hearts. What if the built-in need of eating 3 times a day is only half the truth? What if the other half is the need to connect with others? 3 times a day!



**"DO YOU LOVE ME?"  
"YES, LORD," HE SAID.  
JESUS SAID TO HIM,  
"FEED MY SHEEP."**

- JOHN 21:15

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

### HOUSE CHURCH

The Gospel.  
The Bible.  
The People of God.

The main ingredients of a House Church are simple, yet strong. Simple, because church practice must be transitional to the times (Covid-19), cross-cultural and available to both the poorest of people as well as the highest of society. Strong, because the church is meant to be the embodiment of Christ here on earth, intimately woven into one accord and one mind, a fruitful expression of love, light, freedom and victory over a final death!

We believe that houses offer a uniquely intimate, sustainable, and fruitful expression of the church body that is harder to accomplish in a larger church setting.

The people that gather with us are from all walks, all ages and all stages of life. This includes both the homeless and the wealthy.

It's true that we are the ones leading in our home, but the spiritual development and unity of a house church is accomplished only by the work of the Holy Spirit moving in the lives of each one of us, and not by... (continued on back)

*Love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind. Matt 22:37*



human endeavor. Our hope is for our fellow believers to find authentic, biblically sound and supportive fellowship in our home, so that lives continue to be transformed by the Spirit of God in our midst and many more step out in faith to reach those still wandering, lost and hurting.

We officially gather on Sundays and Tuesdays. We host a Men's group on Friday mornings and hope to add a Women's group soon too. We have two devoted men of God living with us currently as they work out the practical details of how to live lives of full-time ministry. We observe the Sabbath and Holy Days through worship and good food. And through it all, we watch expectantly as the Holy Spirit is slowly but surely knitting God's imperfect people together with love.

Soon, others will grow until they too are bursting at their spiritual seams, ready to go and multiply what they have been experiencing with others in our home, despite Covid-19!



## *Donation Information:*

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