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April 2024 Prayer Letter

April 1, 2024

Dear Prayer and Fasting Partners,

Happy April, my friends, I hope you had a wonderful time celebrating our Lord's resurrection. I am blessed to have so many of you praying together for the health and vitality of our church planting ministry. We have several things we are celebrating:

- The birth of Mosaico Comunidad Cristiana in Morris. This daughter church of First Christian in Morris has been having an average attendance of 18 Spanish speakers each week in worship. They continue to see new people weekly, so join us in saying "Thank you" to the Father;
- Kheimeh Molaghat (our church reaching Farsi speakers) is growing across the world. James Shahabi told me last Sunday that their daughter church in Pakistan is now 4 churches in Pakistan reaching 400-500 people in person. This is another great praise!

Thank you for your prayers for Ignite, we are stronger because you choose to partner with us. Here are some of the things I would like you to be praying for during April:

1. **Pause to Pray for Planters:** April 8 – 12, we are going to pause to pray for workers at 10:02 am (Luke 10:2). Jesus told us to ask the Father for planters and we are going to do so. I will be on our conference call number each morning at this time, so feel free to call in. Wherever you are, please pause to pray for church planters.
2. **Lilly Grant Proposal:** We are working on a proposal for a Lilly grant that focuses on developing the practices of prayer and worship in the lives of children. What a powerful impact this focus could have on the future! Please pray for our team as we seek to complete the proposal by the May 6 deadline.
3. **Pentecost 2024:** This year Pentecost falls on May 19. The offering focus for 2024 is to fund the starting of micro churches in and around Chicagoland. One of these churches will focus on reaching the deaf community. We have secured a \$25,000 matching gift, so let's pray that amount is matched.
4. **Ignite Thriving Churches:** On April 25, we are hosting the first gathering of Ignite Thriving Churches. This initiative, which is funded by the Lilly grant we received last year, will help churches develop greater health and vitality. We are praying for 10 churches to be involved in the process during 2024.
5. **Meetings with Potential Church Planters:** I will be meeting with several people about planting during April and would appreciate your prayers for discernment and wisdom.

Thank you for being an important part of our church planting ministry. People ask me what makes Ignite stand out and my response is always, "We practice prayer!"

I am grateful for your prayer help, Lance