

Longing for That Day

As I read Jesus' words in John 14:1, "Let not your heart be troubled" (NKJV), I cannot stop thinking about my 2-year-old granddaughter, Catalina, who was recently diagnosed with leukemia. How can I accept Jesus' words when we—humankind—become so overwhelmed by problems that are many times beyond our control?

Perhaps, you may be facing an illness in your family, the loss of a job, a family conflict, or a child in a problematic spiritual or moral situation. Maybe at work you have a case beyond your control that keeps you up at night. The question is, "How can I accept Jesus' words, 'Let not your heart be troubled,' when my heart feels so broken?"

Through His Son, God has a message of encouragement for my family and me, and perhaps for you if you are currently facing a challenging situation too. First, Jesus said that in this world we would have afflictions and tribulations; suffering and adversities would not only affect non-believers, but Christians too.

Moreover, Jesus said, "Believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1, NKJV). The focus must not be on the problem but in the solution. Do not lose faith in God amid your afflictions. In John 16:33, Jesus states, "But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (NKJV). And the author of Psalm 23:4 wisely writes, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me" (NKJV).

Lastly, according to John 14:1-3, we must remember that this world is not our home. Jesus has prepared a home in heaven for you, for our beloved Catalina, and for all of those awaiting His return, for "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4, NKJV).

Now, more than ever, I long for that day.



Jorge Agüero
President

Conference Sponsors TLT Retreat



More than 30 Teen Leadership Training (TLT) candidates and staff recently attended the iTell TLT retreat. Carl Rodriguez, conference Youth Ministries director, states, "iTell offers different workshops on how to reach others for Christ. This year, three components were offered to the teens and staff who attended: how to start a summer camp at a local church; establishing small groups; and how to do follow-ups."

Attendees share they left the meeting rejuvenated, equipped and excited for ministry in their local churches.

Nigel Leon, a Teen Leadership Training member from Lake Nelson church's Piscataway Eagles Pathfinder Club, gives an "OK" sign during the retreat.