

State of the Ministry - 2021

It could be very easy to label 2021 as the worst year in the lives of the Itzel family. We nearly lost Karen in January to this dreaded virus, my mother passed away from cancer in August, and we have seen our country become an unparalleled economic and moral disaster in the last nine months...and the year isn't over yet. Who knows what lies ahead by the end of the year, for we have been promised that in this world we will have tribulation.



Yet, by God's grace, I will always look back on 2021 as a period of unprecedented spiritual growth for our family and ministry. The Itzels are not the same people we were on January 1st. God has grown us more in Christlikeness, holiness, and faithfulness than any previous year of our lives, not in spite of these trials, but because of them. We not only were able to grow in our trust of God, but were privileged to model trust in the midst of trials for others.



In 2021, our family, like Job in Job 42:5, has seen the Lord in ways we haven't before. Our eyes were opened to who God is as we lived out the first 2 months resting on Him, waiting to see if Karen would come home to us. We were then able to put into practice the lessons we learned as we helped lead others through the valley of the shadow of death with my mom's trip to glory.

And now, we are more focused on utilizing our remaining days for our Lord and Master. I have gone back to school, taking seminary level classes at The Shepherd's Institute. We have also begun spending our weekdays preaching on the streets in nearby cities and towns. We have started a weekly extended-family Bible study where we are focusing on defending our faith. And we are currently working on, what I believe will be, a career defining album based on what we have learned in 2021.

God has blessed not only our family, but also our ministry this year. Even with Covid slowing things down and losing January and February to sickness, we still are 5 concerts over our goal set for the year! We have given out over 10,000 gospel tracts and have had hundreds of gospel conversations in just the last 4 months. God even opened the door for a week-long mission trip to Ocean City where we preached the good news to hundreds up and down the boardwalk.



There are still issues we must deal with and we ask for your continued prayers on these matters. First, Karen still has what is called "Long Covid". That means she has lasting effects from the virus (scar tissue in her lungs, still sleeping with oxygen, fast heart rate,

and she gets very tired, very quickly). Please pray for her complete recovery and/or that God will give her the strength to continue to serve Him.

Second, the economy is in shambles and inflation is out of control. This means that everything is costing way more than it did in January. Towing our big trailer full of equipment is becoming more and more of a financial burden, not to mention all of the other family and business expenses soaring. I'm sure you are all feeling it as well. Please pray for more ministry partners to come along and support us as we carry the good news to churches and to the streets.

Third, January and February are always hard months to book because of the weather. We usually rely on year-end gifts to give us a boost into the new year. We also try to rebook the previous year's dates in January and February, but we have no dates to draw from since we were recuperating in 2021. That is why, more than ever, year-end giving is vital. Please pray with us for 10 more individuals, families, churches, or Christian owned small businesses to partner with us by the end of this year. We believe that should allow us to continue our music ministry, street preaching ministry, and be faithful to our home church.



Will you please pray about what part you can play in helping us reach this world with the life-giving gospel, the only thing that can save our souls, our families, our nation, and our world? Bill and Karen Itzel Ministries is a 501c3 non-profit ministry that is committed to preaching the truth of God's world in a world that keeps asking, like Pilate in John 18:38, "What is truth?"

We are thankful for one-time gifts, especially at the end of the year as we plan for 2022, but we are most in need of monthly partners who can sustain this ministry over the long haul and help us walk through more and more doors for the gospel. Thank you for your prayers and support this year. God has used you for His Kingdom and we hope to be able to partner with you in 2022 and beyond.

To become a ministry partner with either a one-time gift, or monthly support, go to BKMinistry.org, or you can mail us directly at Bill and Karen Itzel Ministries, 4215 Salem Bottom Rd. Westminster, MD 21157.

His Servant,

Bill Itzel