

# JINGER'S STORY

By: Ross Rohde

As Patty was driving down the road near Boise, she experienced the strangest sensation. She distinctly felt God tell her to go pick that woman up; how weird. Yet, it was clear, God wanted her to pick that woman up; so she did. The woman's name was Jinger (named after the starlet on Gilligan's Isle). She was a Peruvian immigrant. As the conversation progressed, Patty invited Jinger to her weekly Bible study led by my niece Kelly. Jinger became a Christian at that Bible study.

This October 12th (a Thursday), I was visiting family and friends in Boise. Kelly, who has had an ongoing interest in simple church, invited her friends to meet us for supper and learn more about simple churches. Among the people who came was Jinger. Because Margi and I speak Spanish, we could converse with her at a deeper level. She had some simple, straight forward questions. Did we need a clergy to do this, (no)? Could she do this, (yes)? Would it be alright to start with her non-Christian family (most definitely yes)? Her most interesting question of all, as far as I was concerned was about how we were funded. She wanted to know if she needed to pay to attend the meeting (most definitely not!). Jinger left early, so she asked Margi to tell me to call her.

The first opportunity I had to call Jinger was Saturday at noon. Jinger had already planted a church with her non-Christian family. In about 36 hours she had gone from new Christian to church

planter. And yes, I am well aware of the potential problems. Problems don't scare me, being out of the harvest does.

Let me teach you some simple church vocabulary. Jinger is what we commonly call a "person of peace." She is someone God divinely sets up for his "workers in the harvest" to meet. People of peace encounters (Luke 10:6) usually have a supernatural edge. People of peace commonly allow workers to start churches in their house, or just do it themselves; which is exactly what we want to happen.

Does Jinger have a lot to learn? Sure. Is she adequate to do this job? No, but are you adequate to do anything for God? I know I'm not. She can learn on the job. In the process she will probably be pushing Kelly's envelope and maybe Patty's. They will all enter a steep learning curve. Which in and of itself is good. They are now in the organic harvest. They are not merely learning about ministry, they are doing it. They will learn in this process that no one can do anything for God; but God can do much through those who make themselves available to Him. What if Jinger fails? It is a learning opportunity. What if she makes mistakes? It is a learning opportunity. What if this takes off so fast that it gets out of control (a distinct possibility)? It will be an opportunity to see just what God can do. And all the while, a whole group of people are learning in the harvest and becoming more effective harvesters. Boy, is this fun.