



Ray
Schellinger

GLOBAL

LANGUAGES

Spanish
English

MINISTRY PRIORITY

Immigrants and Refugees

BIRTHDAY

12/2



LOCATION

Global



ABOUT

RAY is an International Ministries (IM) global consultant for immigrants and refugees. He networks with IM colleagues and international partners who serve with refugees and displaced peoples, helping to strengthen their ministries, find needed resources and build capacity. Ray works to construct bridges between the U.S. and

Puerto Rico churches and those international partners, which provide opportunities to serve some of the most vulnerable people in the world. In addition, Ray hosts several teams per year in international cross-cultural settings where they can learn about the struggles of migrants, the realities of global immigration and border policies.



SCAN ME

EMAIL: ray.schellinger@internationalministries.org



Ray and Louise wait for Camille.

“ MINISTRY STORY

The Darien Gap is the midpoint of the journey for many of the migrants traveling from South America heading north. It is a remote jungle between Colombia and Panama, which most migrants say is the hardest part of the journey. There is no food or water, or any sign of civilization, and it can take several weeks to cross. There is no way around it. Once they are through the jungle, migrants come to a small village and catch a ride on a boat upriver to a United Nations camp, where they can find food and rest.

I recently spent some time in the camp and welcomed the travelers as they arrived. At the river, I noticed Louise, a young Haitian woman who came to check each boat, one after another. She cried as she could not find her sister, Camille, among any of the new arrivals. Camille had become separated somewhere in the jungle three days before, and Louise was desperately trying to find her. I waited with her for the last six or seven boats of the day, but Camille never came. Louise had lost her only family, and she had no

idea how to go on, or why. Her grief was unbearable.

As I accompany people along the impossible roads they must travel, I will forever be haunted by the image of Louise on the banks of that river. I am reminded that these asylum seekers have already had losses greater than I could imagine.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for Camino se Salvacion, a Baptist church in Tijuana, as they seek to expand their shelter and ministry.

Pray for Fundacion SEPAZ, a ministry in Colombia ministering to migrants on the road.

Pray for Camille and Louise, and the thousands more on the journey.

SCRIPTURE

“Lord, when did we see you a stranger and invite you in? The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Matthew 25:38, 40 (NIV)