



Praises!

- Gustavo got saved!
- Baby has improved
- Amanda has received good care
- Joanna appointed to Colombia

Prayer Requests

- Amanda and baby
- Church growth in San Juan and Ipialis

Straight to Heaven

In San Juan this last Sunday, I was speaking with one of the newer church attendees when Brother Carlos motioned for me to come over. He had been talking with an elderly gentleman, Gustavo, who I had noticed had listened intently during the service. As I walked over, Carlos told me that the Gustavo believed that heaven is now on this earth and wanted to talk with me. Incredulously, I mentioned that it would be pretty bad if this were heaven. Gustavo chuckled and I began to share the Gospel with him. After twenty minutes or so, Gustavo placed his faith in Christ as his only and sufficient Savior. Tears began to fill his eyes as I explained to him what will happen now when he dies. For the first time in his life, this seventy-three-year-old gentleman learned that there is no purgatory to be prayed out of and that the blood of Christ is sufficient to bring forgiveness of sin and allow him to go straight to heaven for all of eternity. Please pray now for Gustavo to grow in grace and the knowledge of his Savior.

Amanda and the Baby

Thank you all for your continued prayers for Amanda and the baby. She has received very good care at Mercy Medical Center. They found several problems that they were able to correct and that has made a tremendous difference for her and the baby. The baby had been rapidly falling behind in normal growth; now he has grown. We are so grateful for your prayers. This has been, by far, the most difficult pregnancy Amanda has ever faced. She has developed gestational diabetes amongst other things. We anxiously await the baby's birth in the next few weeks. Lord willing, by our next prayer letter, he should be born.

Ministry

The last several weeks have been some of the most difficult for me personally. To need and want to be in more than one place



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and know it is not humanly possible has been challenging. God has been trying to grow me through it. May I learn what He has for me to in this season. In September, I spent two weeks in Pasto preaching and taking care of needs of the ministry. It was a tremendous blessing to be part of the churches in San Juan, Ipialis, Pasto, and Tulcan. We celebrated our one-year anniversary of the church plant in San Juan. Pastor Joel from Tulcan, Ecuador, sent a team of Mexican young people to help us in evangelism and ministry. On our anniversary of the San Juan church plant, we had fifty-three attending. The same week, Pastor Joel held a missions conference in Ipialis. On the last night, between those attending and the missions team visiting from Mexico, there were one hundred and thirty in attendance. Our hearts were overjoyed. Some had come in directly off the street and were in bad shape from drugs and alcohol, but all heard the gospel clearly proclaimed. Please keep praying for the San Juan and Ipialis church plants.

I flew back to Pasto again in October to teach a block class in the Bible institute and preach for a youth event. We covered Angelology in the class, and then I ended up having to deal with someone at church who has struggled with demonic activity in their home. They have only been saved two weeks and God is working in their life. Praise the Lord that we who are saved are sealed by the Holy Spirit and greater is He who is in us than he that is in the world!

Amanda cannot travel far because of baby, but we have tried to get to churches in MD. It has been a blessing to see friends we have not seen in several years. It was also a joy for Timothy, Bethany, and I to spend a weekend out with pastor Stan Stringer in Tucson, AZ. We were grateful and humbled to learn of those who pray regularly and even daily for our family and ministry. God truly does answer prayer.

Co-worker Appointed to Begin Deputation

My sister Joanna was appointed last week as a missionary with Baptist World Mission to Colombia and is being sent out of our sending church, Crossroads Baptist Church. She, through much prayer, has determined that the Lord would have her to come permanently to help assist in the church-planting team that God is raising up. She will be helping us in the areas of music, and working with young people in the churches in San Juan, Ipialis, and will also be helping Pastor Ceron and his church in Pasto. There is more work than there are laborers and we are excited that she will be joining us. Please pray for her now as she begins deputation to be able to schedule meetings and God to raise up her support quickly so she can get to the field. She has already finished one semester of language school and is currently working on her second. Please pray for her to get a good handle on Spanish so that she will be effective in communication. We know these will be busy days for her but look forward to seeing what God does in and through her and how He continues to guide her steps as she heads to Colombia! Please pray for God to send more laborers to Colombia. The fields are ripe, but there are so few laborers. Maybe God would have you be one!

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for our family and ministry! We are so grateful!

In Christ,
Matt Smith for the family
Missionaries to Colombia

