



Praises!

- Joshua Daniel Smith born
- Gustavo continuing to attend
- Tickets to Colombia purchased

Prayer Requests:

- Spiritual growth of new believers
- Return to Colombia on Dec. 31st
- New meeting location in San Juan
- Church bus broken again

Joshua Daniel Smith

Thank you to all who have prayed for Amanda and the baby. Our son Joshua Daniel Smith was born on Nov. 10th. Praise the Lord he is healthy and Amanda has recovered well. We are so glad to have him as part of our family. His brothers and sisters adore him. His passport arrived last week and we have begun his visa process. Thankfully, we will be able to complete it in Colombia. We have purchased our return tickets to Pasto for December 31st. It has been a crazy year and we look forward to beginning the New Year at home in Colombia. We are so grateful to everyone who has prayed for our family and supported us through all the ups and downs this last year.

Joanna

My sister Joanna has begun deputation and has already had some meetings. She is contacting pastors and churches for next year. If you would like her to contact you for her prayer letters, learn how God has guided her to Colombia, or would consider her for a potential meeting please feel free to email me. Also, she can be reached directly at: js016002@gmail.com Please pray for her that God would speedily bring her to Colombia.

Discipleship

In our last prayer letter, we mentioned Gustavo's salvation. Praise the Lord he is still attending the services in San Juan. We are grateful when anyone makes a profession of faith but especially excited when they begin to grow in the Lord. Please continue to pray for his spiritual growth.

Carlos and his family continue the weekly Bible clubs and have now started a youth discipleship class at the church after Bible club. There has been an increasing interest in it and now there are roughly 10 teen and preteen young people coming every Saturday. Madelín, Carlos's daughter, and another helper



disciple the young people. Carlos and Glenda disciple any adults who come. Please pray for these discipleship sessions.

Moving to a House

We mentioned several prayer letters ago our need to find a new place to live. Praise the Lord God guided us as we searched and answered many specific prayers. I located a house on the edge of Pasto for rent and the owner worked with us even holding the house two months. We have lived in three different apartments since arriving in Colombia. This will be the first time we have had a house. Life with so many children in an apartment is stressful and we are looking forward to not having to worry about bothering folks on the other side of our walls or floors above and below us.

Church Bus

Over the last year, we mentioned numerous times that our church bus was “almost done.” It broke down in November, 2022 and we had to replace the engine and transmission. After being told countless times that “next week” it will be ready, we finally got the bus back before Thanksgiving this year. We never dreamed it would take more than a year to have it repaired! During that time, someone stole the drivers seat, battery, radio, and electric door parts. This week, it has left us stranded twice and now is broken down again. Please pray with us that we can get it properly repaired. Our personal vehicle is also broken down. Please pray I can find what the problem is. We have had it looked at twice and cannot diagnose it.

Looking Back and Looking Forward

December is always a time of reflexion. As we look back at the old year and look forward to a new one, we plan and pray for God to work in our lives, home, and ministry. Would you please pray with us for God to continue to work mightily here in southwest Colombia? This year has been a roller coaster for us, yet the work in Colombia continues. Some specific areas that we need prayer for are:

1. The spiritual growth of the new believers in San Juan and Ipialis church plants. There is an interest in the preaching and the attendance has grown but now comes the difficult and sometimes slow process of change as people are disciplined in their new faith. We are excited to see some who had stopped coming attending again but unless they allow God to change them its a matter of time before they leave again.
2. Wisdom in new evangelism and church planting efforts. God is bringing a church planting team together. We need balance of current ministry and effective growth in new opportunities. We especially desire to see a new church planted in the town of Nariño.
3. God’s direction in finding new meeting locations. We are many times close to or at capacity in San Juan. We need to either find a new building when our contract finishes or we need to find an inexpensive lot to build on. We also need to plan for the future in Ipialis as it grows.
4. We pray God allows us to see a Christian camp begun for the youth here in southern Colombia and northern Ecuador. Pastor Ceron is praying for this as well. Please ask God to guide and open doors of opportunity.

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