



### Praises!

- New church plant to start this week!
- Pastor Arias coming for our missions conference

### Prayer Requests:

- Vehicles to be repaired soon
- Visas to be approved
- House problem to be resolved
- God to work in the missions conference at the end of March

### Visas and Vehicles

What a blessing it has been the last two months to finally be back in Colombia! The last year and a half has been a struggle, as we have been in and out of Colombia for visa and medical needs. Please pray with us as we continue to go through the process of getting Joshua's visa. We started the process in the States and then found out, after we got to Colombia, that new laws have changed the way we can apply. Amanda and I need to transfer our visas before we get his. We are re-buying our documents and are trying to complete the process in the next couple weeks. Please pray for Colombia to approve each visa.

January and February have been very difficult for our family, as we continue to struggle to keep a vehicle on the road. Right before we got back to Colombia, a friend kindly had our SUV washed for us. Unfortunately, they washed inside the engine bay, electrical damage was done, and the vehicle would no longer run. It took almost a month after we were back to finally get it to run again, and now it continues to give us random problems.

Our church van carried us through some of the last two months, but it continues to be in and out of the mechanic's shop. We got it back again on Saturday, and it wouldn't work on Sunday. Please pray that we can find an honest mechanic who will be able to get it fixed well enough to stay running. We need it to work, as we now have too many people to fit in our SUV. On Sunday, we had 15 people in 7 seats.

### Nariño, and a New Church

We are excited to announce a new church plant that we will begin on Wednesday, February 28th. God has been working in our hearts and the lives of a family who live in Nariño about the need for a church in the town. There are several families who live in Nariño who travel almost an hour to attend church in



Pasto. We have evangelized in the town and sense an openness and open door there that is unusual. After talking with Pastor Ceron and the key family from Nariño, we have decided it is time to begin taking steps of faith and see what God will do. Lord willing, we will begin on Wednesday nights holding discipleship Bible studies focused on doctrine and needed growth toward the starting of the church. We want to see the families there taking steps and helping in the formation of the church. Please pray with us for this new work.

### **Bible Institute**

On Tuesday, February 27th, we begin our next Bible Institute block class. I will be teaching the next month about worship in the local church. Please pray with me as I study for and teach the three classes a week. It is a heavy load on top of the churches we are involved in. We are excited about what God is doing in the Bible Institute, and are especially looking forward to the guest teachers we have scheduled to come this semester. Lord willing, missionary Matt Shields and his family will be with us for a week to teach. Please pray God calls some of the young people into the ministry.

### **Housing Heist**

We mentioned in our last prayer letter our excitement about finally finding a house to rent. It has been a blessing to finally be out of an apartment. Our excitement turned into a headache when we were contacted by the owners asking for their rent payment. As foreigners without co-signers, we typically need to pay six months to a year of rent in advance. In December, the landlord who managed our housing contract and payment gladly accepted our advance deposit for rent. Regrettably, he provided us with a false bank account to deposit the funds into and subsequently used the money for personal purposes—never giving to the owners of the house.

The last few weeks have been stressful as we try and understand and work through the situation. Last week, we received a letter from a lawyer stating that we need to vacate the house immediately. Pastor Ceron has been a huge help speaking with the various parties involved. Please pray with us that everything will be resolved very soon, and that the money will be returned and paid as it should have been in December. If not, please pray that we can find somewhere else to live quickly. Unfortunately, the owners of our former apartment are now selling their apartment and not renting.

### **March Missions Conference**

Our church in San Juan is looking forward to our first-ever missions conference the last week of March. Pastor Neil Arias and his family are travelling from Edinburg, Texas, and will be with us for the conference. We had the privilege of having Pastor Arias for our pastor while we were in language school, and know he will be a blessing to the church!

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

