



Praises!

- Several folks have trusted Christ!
- San Juan Church involved in missions
- Nariño church adopts a name

Prayer Requests:

- San Juan church to find a new location
- Nariño church to find a location in town
- Spiritual growth of new believers
- Be able to find a reliable vehicle

San Juan and Nariño Church Plants

Praise the Lord for how God has worked in the town of Nariño since the end of February! I expected only a few saved families to come in the beginning but was pleasantly surprised by many visitors ever since the first service. Multiple families have been attending faithfully and are demonstrating a real hunger for the scriptures. My focus in preaching has been on Bible doctrines, beginning with God and the Trinity. A week ago, as I continued our study on the Holy Spirit, several people began to ask questions. Our service ended, but the questions continued. It was a real joy to hear and see that folks are not just coming and listening but are hungry to know and understand more of God's Word.

Two weeks ago, the church in Nariño voted to call themselves "Iglesia Bíblica Bautista de Fe." It was an exciting time for each of the families to be a part in what God is doing in the church. For me, it was extra special as my father and grandfather have pastored Faith Baptist Church in Joppa, MD, since the 1960s.

At the end of March, we had the joy of hosting Pastor Neal Arias and his family from Iglesia Bautista El Faro in Edinburg, TX. Pastor Arias preached in both the San Juan and Nariño church plants. The folks were greatly challenged by his preaching, and six people made professions of faith. Mrs. Rhonda Arias and their daughter Vanessa were a special encouragement to Amanda and our children. Having visitors is unusual and for a pastor's wife and daughter to come is even more unusual. We are so grateful for their ministry to our family and the churches here.

Pastor Arias preached our very first missions conference at Iglesia Bíblica Bautista de Gracia in San Juan. The church was crowded both nights, and the folks were greatly helped by the



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preaching. A week ago, the church in San Juan voted to take on a Mexican missionary and his family for support as our first missionaries. The amount may be small, but praise the Lord that the church is developing a love for missions and a desire to be a part of God's work around the world. May we one day see missionaries sent out of each of the churches here in Colombia.

Housing Update

Thank you for your prayers for us and our housing problem. The owners allowed us to stay in the house. Unfortunately, we ended up having to repay all the rent again since the landlord had taken what we sent in December. Although it was not ideal, we at least did not have to find another place to live. We are grateful that after much pressure and back and forth, the landlord gave us ten percent back of what he had taken. We pray God works in his heart and that he eventually will give back the rest.

Health Update

Thank you for your continued prayers for my health. It has been two weeks today since I last lost my sight. The neurologist believes small blood clots cause the episodes. I have another test soon, and then I will go back to the neurologist to see what needs to be done next. Please pray for an accurate diagnosis and for any remedy to be made clear.

Prayer Requests

With the growth of the church in Nariño, we have begun to look for a place to meet in town. Currently, we are meeting at the farm of one of the core families. We would be able to reach more people effectively if we were in town. Please pray we can find either a building to rent or a small lot to buy and build on. A couple of the men of the church are actively looking for the ideal place.

We have a similar need for the church in San Juan. We have been renting the same building for the last two years but are running out of room for continued growth. We've asked the church to pray for God's guidance in finding another building to rent or perhaps even a lot where we could construct a roof and pour a concrete floor. So far, we have been unsuccessful to find anything. Please help us in prayer for this need. We need to decide by the end of May to avoid any contract penalties should we decide not to continue where we are.

Please forgive me for frequently mentioning vehicle problems in our prayer letters. Our church bus/van was fixed after our last prayer letter and worked for about three weeks and then broke down again. We have decided it would be best for us to fix the bus one last time and sell it to use the money for one of the church builds.

Our personal SUV has also been a problem. Last week, I got stranded in Ipialis and had to stay the night away from Amanda and the kids before I could get it back to Pasto. It has become clear that we need to find a more reliable vehicle for our family. Please pray that we can find a reliable SUV that would be able to fit our family of nine.

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

Your missionaries to Colombia