



### Praises

- Visitors from Mexico
- Anniversary of church in San Juan
- Christian camp opportunity
- Bible institute classes
- Salvation of Yanira

### Prayer Requests

- Spiritual growth of San Juan and Nariño churches
- Financial provision for and purchase of church building lot in Nariño
- Safety in ministry opportunities
- Health of family
- Establishment of camp in Nariño



Building auditorium at camp

### From Cocaine to Christian Camp

Greetings from Southwest Colombia! These last two months have been extremely busy in ministry, and we are excited to share some huge news. About two years ago, we had asked folks to pray about our desire to one day see a Christian camp begun here in Colombia. Such an undertaking has always seemed very distant and even impossible. Just the land required would be a miracle for God to provide. We had no idea that God has been working behind the scenes all along to bring this prayer request to reality. A couple months before we moved to Colombia, Ramiro and his wife visited Pastor Ceron's church in Pasto and he was saved. Ramiro has been loaning us their farm outside of Nariño to begin Faith Baptist Church. As a note, our department of Colombia has the largest acreage of cocaine growing than anywhere else in Colombia. We live a little over an hour from the coca fields. Ramiro was born and raised in a large cocaine-producing town and has had several cousins who became involved in the trade, all of which have been murdered as a result. When Ramiro was a young, lost man, he decided to try his hand in the trade and even planted a crop. By God's mercy and grace, his crop failed and he did not succeed. He then went to his mother asking for money to get started in the trafficking side. His mother refused. He then moved to Ecuador to try his hand in the oil business instead. Fast forward to today, he and his wife Nayeli are now saved and have become a vital part of our new church plant in Nariño giving their farm for us to use while we save to purchase the building lot in town. About a month and a half ago, Ramiro and Nayeli called me out to the farm to talk and seek counsel. When I arrived, they shared their burden to see a Christian camp started on their farm. They had no idea about our prayers. What has seemed impossible, God is making possible by not only providing the land needed, but also the personnel in that Ramiro will be the director and keep the camp running. The churches of Nariño and Pasto have gotten involved in the last few weeks and we have begun the

construction for the auditorium. Lord willing, October 14th will be the first event with a ladies' retreat. Amanda will be one of the speakers and, Lord willing, ladies from the churches in San Juan, Pasto, Ipialis, and Nariño will get together for the day. Please pray with us in the months ahead as we construct cabins, a small kitchen, and a bathhouse. We are excited to see how God is going to continue to work in the years ahead.

### **Kidnappings and Safety**

We would like to ask folks to continue to pray for safety for our family and church family. Last month we learned from our church people that there have been several kidnappings in San Juan. Children have been the target and we saw our attendance drop for a few weeks as parents kept their children inside. It has raised our awareness again to the risks around us. Every year, kidnappings go up, especially in the month of October. Satanism is big in our area, and Halloween is a dark time. The depravity of the lost mind is horrifying. The same week, one of the children who attends our church faithfully had his face smashed badly when he witnessed a robbery in town. Thankfully, he has recovered fully now. Safety from evil and threats is needed. We were driving into the town square in San Juan a few weeks ago, and two guerilla fighters passed our car on their motorcycle. They both had machine guns, and we were just a few feet away. It is the first time the kids or Amanda have seen them. We were grateful they passed us without seeing us and went up into the mountains.

### **Church Land Update**

We continue to pray to be able to purchase and build a church building on the lot in Nariño. Thank you to those of you who have given so sacrificially to this project. God is working, and we need \$28,000 more to be able to buy the land and build. Please pray especially that the owner will not sell or divide the land into lots so that we can see this become a reality. Just being able to meet together as a church in town will be a tremendous blessing. We will be able to reach so many more people, not just in Nariño but in the surrounding areas. If you or your church would like to be a part of the project, please send any donations for the land project to Baptist World Mission or you can donate online. We will send out an update to everyone when God has provided the need as well as when we are able to purchase the lot.

### **Visitors**

We were excited to welcome Brother Jerry Shaw, Jr. and his family when they visited the first week of August. Brother Shaw is a second-generation missionary working in Guadalajara, Mexico. They were a blessing in each of the churches here as well as in a youth camp in Ecuador. We are looking forward to more visitors who will be with us in October and December. Please pray especially for Evangelist Jeremiah Clark and his family as they will be visiting and ministering in the churches the first week and a half of December. Brother Clark and his family will be a tremendous blessing, and we are excited for the folks here to get to know them.

Thank you all for your prayers and support of our family and ministry here. May God richly bless each of you where you serve Him!

In Christ,  
Matt Smith for the Family

Your missionaries to Colombia

