



Praises!

- Baptisms in Nariño and San Juan
- God’s provision of a vehicle
- God provided an apartment to rent in Pasto

Prayer Requests:

- Nicolas and Kevin as they lost their mother to cancer.
- Hannah’s health needs
- Camp and church construction projects
- Furlough planning

No More Tears in Heaven

In December, we asked folks to pray for Marcela who had been diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. Little did we know that three weeks later she would step into the Lord’s presence. Marcela was such a joyful member of the Nariño church and we all miss her very much. Our family had known her since our first week in Colombia several years ago. She was our immigration officer. The Lord used our visa problems to continually put us in contact with her. Marcela always expressed interest in visiting our church. Last summer, Marcela began to attend and placed her faith in Christ as her Saviour. We now look forward to the day we will see her again in Heaven. Please pray for her two sons, Nicolas and Kevin. Their family is very Catholic and was angered that Marcela was attending our church. Her boys have had to move to another region of Colombia now to be with family. Their phone numbers have been changed so we no longer have contact with them.

Christmas Surprise

We made the last minute decision to fly back to the States on Christmas eve and stayed for a few weeks to take care of some needs. Our daughter Hannah had been having health problems over the last year. The symptoms were growing worse and we wanted to take her for medical care there. Although we still do not have any firm diagnosis, we were told she had been misdiagnosed here in Colombia. Please pray for her and that we can eventually learn what is causing her health needs. The kids were so glad (as were grandma and grandpa) for the Christmas surprise.

Church Build in Nariño

We arrived back in Colombia on January 24th and have been working on the church property in Nariño. We are in a rainy season which slows progress significantly. However, this week we began to set up the walls and have purchased the metal for



the structure. Timothy and I have poured most of the concrete bases and Pastor Ceron and some men from Pasto came out and helped move soil to level the lot more. We are now hoping to be in the new building the last Sunday of March or the first Sunday of April. Please pray for God to bless the church as we move from the farm to town.

Baptisms



A few weeks ago, in Nariño, Yanira and her mother followed the Lord in baptism. It was an exciting time for the entire church to see them take this step of obedience. Although it was raining, several in their family came to the river to witness the event. Please pray for her husband and son to be saved soon. Today, we baptized seven more folks in San Juan. I was most excited to baptize our oldest son Timothy. He has been nervous about the decision but today he was ready. Please pray for God to continue to bless the folks as they follow the Lord in obedience and faith.

Family Day

We are looking forward to having the churches get together on March 24th for a family day at the camp in Nariño. Please pray for God to use the event in the hearts and lives of the folks from each church. I will be preaching as will a missionary from Mexico. We are excited for Ramiro and his wife as they use their property for God's glory and the development of the camp. Lord willing, this will be the first of several events held there this year.

Vehicle Update

It has been a constant prayer request and need we have mentioned for our vehicle here. We have a seven seater SUV and it breaks down frequently. We had been looking for a larger vehicle to replace it but were unable to find a good, reliable, inexpensive large vehicle. Thank you to everyone who prayed and those who gave for our need. We decided the best option was to buy another SUV and have Amanda get her drivers license. A few weeks ago we were able to purchase a Hyundai Creta and it has already made a huge difference in our ministry here having two vehicles. Please pray for Amanda as she gets her license and learns how to navigate the traffic and driving here.

Furlough

We are planning a furlough to report to our supporting churches most of whom we have not seen since 2019 or 2020. This fall and the beginning of next year we have to go through the visa process as well as renew our children's passports again. We hope to overlap our furlough with the visa renewal process. We will be contacting our churches about reporting on the ministry here in Colombia. We are so grateful to everyone for supporting us and our ministry here. God has and is doing so much. Please pray for us as we get things in place in each of the churches for furlough.

In Christ,
Matt Smith for the family
Missionaries to Colombia

