



Praises!

- Building dedication in Nariño
- Baptisms

Prayer Requests:

- Furlough preparations
- Future plans for ministry
- Wisdom in decisions for vehicle and trailer for furlough

Building Dedication in Nariño

Thank you so much for praying and sacrificially giving for our building project for Iglesia Bautista de Fe in Nariño. In June we finally finished and moved from the farm to town. Our church family was so excited to dedicate the new building. Pastor Oscar Ceron and Iglesia Bautista Amando a Cristo came from Pasto and joined us for the dedication. Many of the men from Pastor Ceron's church had helped us clear the land and build. It was a joy to see them show their wives and families what God had done through them. Between our church members, visitors and our friends from Pasto, we had almost 130 in attendance. It brought many memories back to my mind of being part of a church plant as a college student. One memory that stands out is our pastor calling the men of the church to the front to pray for the new church. It was such a joy to follow his example and call our Colombian brothers to the front to pray for and dedicate the church for God's glory.

Baptisms and The Lord's Supper

This Sunday we will have more Baptisms in San Juan. Please pray for those who have decided to take this step of obedience to Christ. It is not an easy thing to do here in Colombia. Especially pray that it will encourage others who still struggle with their own decision to identify with Christ in baptism. In Nariño we have five or six people who have also indicated their desire to be baptised soon.

We will also be celebrating the Lord's supper for the first time in both the Nariño and San Juan churches. We are finishing discipleship in both churches and have recently taught on the Lord's supper. Now that several have already been baptized we can begin regularly taking the Lord's supper. It will be a special time.



Preparations for Furlough

The last month has been extremely busy trying to prepare for furlough. We realise that we have so much that still needs to be taught in the churches. Amanda has been cleaning and packing and putting things away for our return. Lord willing, we will be leaving our apartment ready for visitors from Mexico who will be coming to visit Pastor Ivan and his new church plant in Pasto.

We have and are contacting churches to try and schedule a time to report on our ministry here. Please pray we can get to as many churches as possible the next several months. Our desire is to be a blessing and encouragement wherever possible.

One of our prayer requests for furlough is that God would allow us to quickly find an inexpensive travel trailer while we are back in the states to add stability to the hectic schedule of travelling and cut down on the expense of living on the run. With seven children, hotels now want us to rent two rooms to stay in. Also, we need to either replace our 2000 Ford Excursion or put another engine in it. Please pray for wisdom as we make that decision.



Future Plans

As we think back over the last four years we praise God for all He has done and evaluate what our plans and goals for our second term should be.

Iglesia Bautista Torre Fuerte in Ipialis is being led very well by Pastor Joel. We pray God allows them to eventually have their own building and full time pastor.

Iglesia Bíblica Bautista de Gracia in San Juan continues to grow and we are encouraged by the spiritual growth in the people. Our prayer and goal is to see a national pastor take over the work there so we can dedicate more time to a new church plant.

Iglesia Bautista de Fe in Nariño is our newest and neediest church plant. We plan to move to Nariño when we return to be able to dedicate ourselves more to the discipleship of the church family and growth of the church. That will also enable us to help in the further development of the Christian camp. Lord willing, with dormitories and a chapel, we can possibly relocate the Bible Institute to Nariño and see it develop from a three year Bible certificate program to a four year full time Bible seminary. Please pray with us to see these goals become a reality!

Thank you so much for your prayers and support of our family and ministry! May God bless you all there!

In Christ,
 Matt Smith and Family
 Missionaries to Colombia

