



### **Praises!**

- Nita's baptism
- God's provision of a furlough vehicle
- Upcoming Bible Institute graduation
- 3rd anniversary of San Juan Church

### **Prayer Requests:**

- Safety in furlough travels
- Spiritual growth of churches in Colombia
- Effective ministry as we minister to churches while on furlough



### **Furlough!**

The last couple of months have been extremely busy as we finished our time in Colombia, preparing for our first furlough. We taught on the return of Christ in the churches in Nariño and San Juan. We wanted everyone to understand that our focus should be on our Lord, who could return at any time and bring His reward with Him.

One of the greatest privileges I had before we left was being able to baptize a teenage girl (we will call her Nita) who was born with severe physical needs and has to be transported in a wheelchair. She had trusted Christ as her Savior a while ago and has continually brought family and friends to church—many of whom are now saved. Nita has had many questions about baptism, and when several of her friends and family were baptized earlier this year, Nita was excited for them. In July, she was finally ready, and her dad helped me baptize her at the last service before we flew back Stateside on July 23.

Since we arrived back in the U.S., we have updated churches in MD, PA, NC, GA, FL, MI, and NH. Today we are driving to ME, and then we will begin making our way down the Atlantic coast.

Lord willing, we will be in the eastern half of the U.S. until the beginning of February and then report to the churches that support our ministry in TX and AZ. Our plan is to fly back to Colombia the second week of April. Please pray for this time as we report to churches all that God has done and is doing in Colombia. We desire to be a blessing and pray God uses this time of ministry to speak especially to young people and young families about missions and call someone to the mission field.

## Furlough Vehicle

We mentioned in our last prayer letter the need to replace our 2000 Ford Excursion and that we were looking for an inexpensive travel trailer. Thank you for your prayers. Not long after flying back to the States, I found a shuttle bus at a salvage auction. It had been wrecked in the door area and totaled. However, the damage was not mechanical, and so we were able to win the auction and have a reliable, inexpensive vehicle on a F550 chassis. We considered chopping it to pull a trailer, but trailers have gone up in value so much that we could not find an affordable one.



We took most of the seats out, built bunk beds in the back, and added a makeshift bathroom. It is working well now to meet both our transportation and our housing needs. The kids are loving the new adventure that we are on. We are re-learning what trailer life is like.

## Bible Institute Graduation

Although we will not be able to be there for graduation, we are excited that, in December, over 20 students will graduate from Lighthouse Baptist Bible Institute in Pasto.

We are so grateful that God brought Missionary Jim Roe to begin the institute and for all that God has done in students' lives. Please pray with us that God will use some of the students in the ministry as pastors and that He will send new students to study for the ministry.



## Anniversary of San Juan Church

This last weekend, Grace Baptist Church in San Juan celebrated its third-year anniversary. We are so excited to see how God has worked these last three years. So many people have been saved and have begun to take steps of obedience to the Lord.

May God continue to work in hearts and lives and take the church to deeper fellowship with the Lord and spiritual growth. Please pray for Carlos, and Camilo as they are preaching and teaching weekly. Also, for a young man named Yohan who has expressed his desire to one day become a pastor. He will begin studying at the Bible Institute next semester.

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

