



Praises!

- Good meetings in October and November
- Upcoming Bible Institute graduation
- 3rd anniversary of San Juan Church

Prayer Requests:

- Safety in furlough travels
- Trip to Ecuador
- Effective ministry as we minister to churches while on furlough
- A church van for pastor Joel Cortes



Snow!

We never get snow in Colombia, and the kids have been looking forward to seeing some this winter in the States. Their opportunity came this week as we drove from Maryland to Minnesota, and they saw the first dusting of the season. They could hardly contain their excitement as they watched the snowflakes out of the window. They want to make a snowman and have a snowball fight so much, but the snow is very dry. We hope they have an opportunity soon. Thank you for praying for safety in our travels. Please pray that God continues to give good weather as we have many more miles to drive in Michigan and Illinois in December and January.

The months of October and November saw us in 16 different churches from Florida to Maine and out to Indiana to report on all that God has done in Colombia. We told the people in Colombia that furlough is our time to minister to and encourage the churches in the States, just as Paul did in between his first and second missionary journeys. We've asked them to be praying for the churches in the States, and we want all of you to know that your brothers and sisters in Christ are praying for *you!*

The Work Continues

God has blessed us with a wonderful team in Colombia that has continued the work in our absence. We appreciate your prayers for Carlos and his family, who are leading the church in San Juan. As well as for Pastor Ivan, Pastor Ceron, Ramiro, Jorge, Camilo, Glenda, Madelin, and Nayeli, who are either sharing the load with Carlos in Nariño or helping in some way to cover the various needs of the ministry. We would not be able to be in the States to fulfil our furlough responsibilities if it weren't for all their help.

Two Languages and One Heart

It is such a joy to watch as the kids grow and learn. They can bring some comic relief when some lightheartedness is needed. Our kids are in a unique situation as they are experiencing two different cultures and languages through their growing-up years. Our three-year-old, Sarah, still doesn't quite know how to distinguish the two. When we are out in public, and she hears someone speaking in Spanish (or any other language, really), she asks why they are talking in "baby English." When we spread out the Colombian flag on our display table, she and her six-year-old brother said, "What a nice American flag it is." Our two-year-old says some words in Spanish and some in English. Our oldest three quietly listen to people in public carrying on a conversation in Spanish, and they understand every word!



As they grow, we know our children will straighten out one language and culture from the other. It is such a privilege God has blessed us with the ability to understand two languages and cultures and to be able to reach people in both with the Gospel.

December Trip to Ecuador

Timothy and I will be flying to Quito, Ecuador, on December 10th. One of our supporting churches donated Christmas gift boxes for about 120 children. We are flying them to Pastor Joel Cortes, who will use them in his children's ministries in church plants in Carchi, Ecuador, and some new areas he is evangelizing in Southern Colombia. We will be flying through Bogota, Colombia, and look forward to being in Colombia and Ecuador again and seeing pastor Joel. We also look forward to seeing missionary Mark Ackeret and his family while we are in Quito. Mark is the closest American missionary to us, and it has been such a blessing to us the last few years to see him and his family from time to time.

Church Van for Pastor Joel Cortes

A special prayer request we want to mention is that God would guide Pastor Joel Cortes to the right church van he can purchase for his ministry in Northern Ecuador. He has planted three churches in the last five years and currently rents vans every week to bring people to church and move helpers around for evangelism and outreach. He recently had the opportunity to buy a van, but it was from the 1980s and had too many mechanical problems. Please pray that God would provide something more modern and reliable for him to use. It is very difficult to find a reliable vehicle in Tulcan, Ecuador.

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

