



Praises!

- Safety in travels these last few months
- Twenty-three students graduated from the Bible Institute in December
- We found a family van in Colombia

Prayer Requests:

- A ministry van for Pastor Joel
- The approval of our children's visas
- Spiritual growth of the Colombian churches
- Safety in the last few weeks of furlough



A Journey of 10,000 miles...

Since our last prayer letter, we have been in churches in Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, New Mexico, and Arizona. Thank you to each of you who has been so kind to us along the journey. We have really enjoyed the sweet fellowship at each church, sharing all that God is doing in Colombia. The kids finally were able to play in the snow at one of our stops in Wisconsin. Several of the kids built their first snowman. Timothy enjoyed his first snowball fight! At the end of January, we had to reschedule meetings and wait out a snowstorm in Maryland. The kids were glad to get stuck at Grandpa's and Grandma's house for a few days!

We are now in Arizona and will head to Texas, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland over the next few weeks. We appreciate your prayers for our safety, as we still have several thousand more miles to travel before we fly back to Colombia on April 22.

Visas and Colombian Trips

Matt has had to travel to Colombia twice in the past couple of months to obtain needed documents for our Colombian visas. A big prayer request for almost any missionary is help with visa issues. It can be complicated, confusing, time-consuming, and expensive to work through the visa process. Thankfully, we have had three of our visas approved and will be completing the process for the rest of the children in the next few days. Please pray for everyone's visa to be approved without any more difficulties.

We Finally Found a Van

After four years of searching, we have finally found a used passenger van with low mileage in Colombia that would fit our whole family. (It's a 2013 Ford e350 12-passenger van with less

than 15,000 miles on it!) These vans are rare to find and even more so with low mileage. To put this in perspective, some of our Colombian friends have lived their entire lives in Colombia and never seen a Ford van. The few that exist are usually from the 1980s and early 1990s, with several hundred thousand miles on them.

Pastor Ceron had some of his police investigator friends check the vehicle and its history in the Colombian system, and everything checked out fine. He and Carlos flew up to Cartagena on Monday to negotiate the purchase and are now driving the van the 30 hours south to Pasto so it will be ready when we get back to Colombia. We are so grateful for their help in this process and for God's answer to your prayers for us these last few years about a van. Please pray with us for Carlos' and Pastor Ceron's safety as they drive the van through some dangerous parts of Colombia to bring it to Pasto.



We mentioned pastor Joel Cortes in Ecuador in our last letter and his need for a ministry van for his church. He needs to find an Ecuadorian-plated van. He has had a couple of leads in the last two weeks, but nothing has panned out yet. Please continue to pray for God to provide Joel's need as He has ours.

An MK's perspective of Furlough by Timothy

Hi, this is Timothy, your MK to Colombia, South America. Over these seven months of furlough, I have seen many new places. I also have made new friends and seen old ones. The sad part, though, is leaving your friends. No matter where you go, Colombia or the U.S., there are always friends you miss. It is a part of life, but we still have a ton of fun. Traveling all over the U.S. is awesome. I especially like traveling through the night. As much as I have enjoyed furlough, I am ready to go back to Colombia. Thank you for everything! Especially your prayers for us!

Ministry Continues in Colombia

It was a blessing for me, Matt, to travel back to Colombia in January and February. I really enjoyed preaching and seeing our church family. The churches are doing well. We praise God for Carlos, Pastor Ivan, Pastor Ceron, Mateo Ceron, Jorge, Camilo, and Ramiro, who are all helping in the churches while we are on furlough. There are several believers who are now ready to be baptized. We are excited that they will soon take this step of obedience. Please pray for continued spiritual growth and the harmony in the leadership with so many folks involved in the ministry.

Thank you for your prayers for us, the ministry in Colombia, and our safety and travel as we finish our furlough ministry. May God bless each of you!

In Christ,
Matt, Amanda, and Timothy Smith for the Family

Your Missionaries to Colombia

