

May 2024

Stephen and Erika Jones

Dear Family and Friends,

It seems I had forgotten how quickly things move here in the U.S. We are such an active, moving culture. I'm thankful for our time in Colombia because among other things it taught me to take time to enjoy life and not cram as much as possible into every single day. The "fear of missing out" has a death grip on so many Americans, and I want to encourage you to enjoy life without trying to fit in as much as possible.

I'm pleased to share that I had my first experience presenting Drive-In to a church in Spanish. These are long time friends of Drive-In in Birmingham, but they recently moved to a new church location and wanted us to come and share the ministry. Dad gave the message with an interpreter, and asked me to do the ministry presentation in Spanish. After the service was over, they complemented my Spanish by saying I am a Colombian because of how well I speak. They were very impressed, and I can't take credit because the Lord has given me the gift to speak so clearly a second language. Glory to God! We have a movie night planned with them for June 7th, so please be in prayer that it goes well and we see people saved.

Staying with the Spanish ministry, we have a local, Hispanic church who is hosting a soccer tournament Saturday, May 11th at Drive-In Park, with a movie to follow at dark. This isn't their first time, but it's the first time this year. Last year they were rained out, so we're praying for good weather and a good turn out of the unsaved to hear the gospel.

We have been in touch with our partners in Colombia. The van made it safely to Santa Marta. Our good friend Sebastian took the van and delivered it on our behalf. He did an excellent job of showing them how to use it and explaining the things to them. Please pray that it will be a great instrument in their hands and that many will very soon come to Christ in Santa Marta and other cities along the Colombian coast. Ministry in Ambalema and Chorrillo is still underway as Pastor Alex has been sending us reports of the small group meetings he has been leading. Please pray for those who are in the small groups that they will turn from their ways and seek God whole-heartedly. A special thank you for those who gave last month to help Alex and his family with their needs. It was a big help to them, but they still have big needs. As I mentioned last month, they are behind on car payments, had unexpected church costs, car insurance was due, and it's even hard for them to buy groceries. They live in a very poor area and the church barely brings in enough to cover operating costs. Alex's wife works part time as a teacher, but their desire is for her to be able to work full time in ministry. Please pray for them and if you'd like to help financially, let me know.

Eri is back working full-time at a preschool in the Montgomery area. It was challenging for her adjusting at first, but she is glad to get back to teaching in a classroom setting. It shows that she really enjoys teaching. I'm pleased that we are caught up on ministry vehicle and park maintenance. I should be able to turn more of my attention to development at Drive-In Park now that we are caught up with the urgent needs.

The goods that we shipped from Colombia made it into Miami the last week of April, and dad went with me to go pick them up. We drove a truck and trailer, taking turns driving and sleeping. We did the whole trip in one shot since we were never both too tired at the same time. It worked out very well. Everything seems to have made it intact; however, Eri and I have a big task ahead of us as we are searching for a home. Here we have a few prayer requests: the sale of our house, suv, and motorcycle in Colombia; for us to find the right vehicles that we need; and for God to direct us in these next months to find the right place to settle down. Thank you so much for praying for us! We are trusting in the Lord to give us patience, while also giving us wisdom to act when the time is right.

As always, thank you for your prayers and financial support!

In Christ,
Stephen and Erika



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