

Aug 2023

Joneses to Colombia

Dear Family and Friends,

We continue working in the different villages around Ambalema. One of them called Chorrillo is showing great improvements. Our original group finished the Gospel of John curriculum. We gave them certificates to congratulate them and encourage them to continue. The new curriculum we're going to use in continuation is called "Hacia la meta," or "Towards the goal," which is a study for newer believers to help them on their spiritual journey. It discusses the transformation that takes place, a living faith, loving others, and similar topics.

In the same village of Chorrillo, Pastor Eder recently started another group with new people. He has been teaching them beginners lessons about creation, sin, and some basics of the gospel. It is a big group; a family who continue to invite many neighbors. We're with them on Fridays at 6pm when we have the biggest battle against mosquitos. The people burn cardboard and small leaf piles to push them away, but we also cover ourselves in bug spray. We bring a whiteboard and a rechargeable light, and in all the darkness the only thing everyone sees is the board. We also serve some snacks for the attendants using flash lights. We pray for this new group that their interest continues and they will clearly understand the gospel for salvation. We will soon start the study of the Gospel of John with this group.

The teenagers have been very interested in the new study book. One of the lessons that has greatly impacted them thus far was David's sin with Bathsheba. They were able to see how disobedience to God can result in immediate, continual, and future consequences. By coming to the study, they are accumulating points towards receiving a sponsorship to teen camp with Renacer church at the end of the year. Please pray that this study impacts their lives to follow Jesus Christ.

We were able to go back to the village of Boqueron and have a movie night. They really enjoyed the movie and some of them stayed afterwards to discuss some things about the movie and ask some general questions about the Bible. We had a very interesting meal after the movie. Because we were so far away from Ambalema, we had to eat something the locals prepared for us. It was new for me, and Eri had eaten it maybe only once before. It was pigs heart, liver, and lung. They boil it and then fry it. It was very different from what I'm used to eating. In the moment, I didn't ask what it was; I just ate it with the fried plantains. It was definitely a new experience.

At the end of the Month there was a holiday and we were able to invite about 50 people from the local church we are attending in the nearest city. We didn't anticipate that there would be so many people, but as they began to reply to the invitation, we realized it was going to be a big shindig! They had so much fun enjoying the different areas around our gated community, like the pool, creek access, mini soccer field, tennis courts, and our house. We are happy to be a blessing for other brothers and sisters in Christ. God has blessed us greatly, and we are thankful we could share that with others.

Finally, we would like for you to send us questions if you'd like to know more about what's going on, or suggestions of content for future newsletters, you can send them to my email listed below or via Facebook messenger. As always thank you for your prayers and support!

In His service,
Stephen and Erika Jones

Prayer requests:

- Please pray for rain in and around our area, it's been about two months without rain and the dryness of the ground and rivers is greatly affecting the temperature, reaching up to 100 degrees. Most people don't have A.C. Pray for rain in general in the Colombian tropical areas during this dry season.
- Please continue to pray for all the requests listed in the previous letter as they continue to be important prayer needs.