

Oct 2023

Joneses to Colombia

Dear Family and Friends,
Eri's birthday is September 28th, and it was a blessing to be able to spoil her and give her some time to relax and enjoy. Her family came from Bogotá to stay with us for a few days to celebrate her birthday. We had a special breakfast and her dad grilled out for lunch. On Saturday we took a day trip to visit la Hacienda Nápoles which was the home of Pablo Escobar, and has since been converted into a touristic park. It has zoo animals, a museum, and several different water parks. We had to walk a lot, but then went to one of the water parks to cool off before heading home. At church on Sunday, the kids from English class gave her a very thoughtful gift basket, and handmade cards. All in all, she had a great birthday weekend!



We have been working on the details for the short term missions trip with a church from Texas. We're going to have different evangelistic activities in two public schools in Ambalema during the mornings. We're going to present a play and have Bible verse memorization competitions. In the afternoons, we're going to have sports tournaments with various age groups from the community, and also present the play and a movie followed by a gospel presentation. In one of the villages, "Chorrillo" where we have seen the most interest in the Scriptures and spiritual growth, we're going to have a short church service, so they'll get more familiar with what going to church looks like. Please be praying for this trip.

My parents and sister Jennifer are coming for a one week visit in mid November. We are really looking forward to seeing them and spending time with them. Dad got to see our house last year, and we are excited for him to see the improvements and even more excited that mom and Jenny will get to visit for the first time. We are also praying that there won't be any unexpected medical events like we had last time dad was visiting. If you don't know, when dad was here at the end of November last year, he suffered a heart attack, was revived through CPR and prayer, and spent 3 days in 3 different Colombian hospitals where he ultimately had a stent put in. You can read that miraculous story in more detail in our December 2022 Newsletter. (Available upon request) We are looking forward to having them with us in Ambalema and showing them what our ministry is like in Ambalema and Chorrillo.

As we are nearing December, we have a special request for financial support to take some of the teens from Ambalema and Chorrillo to youth camp. Just like last year, we want to take 8-10 teens to the camp. The teens we took last year were very positively impacted, and have been telling their friends about it. Eri and I also enjoyed the teen camp. There is a great mix of games and activities, and most importantly multiple teachings from the Word each day. Also, it isolates the teens from many of the worldly influences that they encounter in their daily lives and gives them a breath of fresh, godly air.

Needless to say, we have a lot going on in these couple months before the end of the year!
As always thank you all for your prayers and support!

 DRIVE-IN
MINISTRIES

In Christ,
Stephen and Erika

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COLOMBIA