

Dear Family and Friends,

So many things happened last month, and it's been like a tornado of emotions, feelings and thoughts for us.

First, we want to start by thanking the Lord for allowing us to have a special time with my dad, mom and oldest sister, Jennifer. We had a great time together. It was a very long trip for them as they endured many hours in the plane and by car to get to our home. Also, they were very brave to go to Ambalema and do ministry work with us. We were able to do at home visits, and they got to meet some of the people we have Bible studies with. They also shared their testimonies with some of them. In the evening we went to one of the neighborhoods of Ambalema and presented *The Lost Medallion* movie. We were competing against a Colombian soccer game that was taking place at the same time on TV; nevertheless, we had a very good attendance of mostly teenagers and kids. Eder presented the gospel and also asked some questions about the movie for the kids to get extra candy.

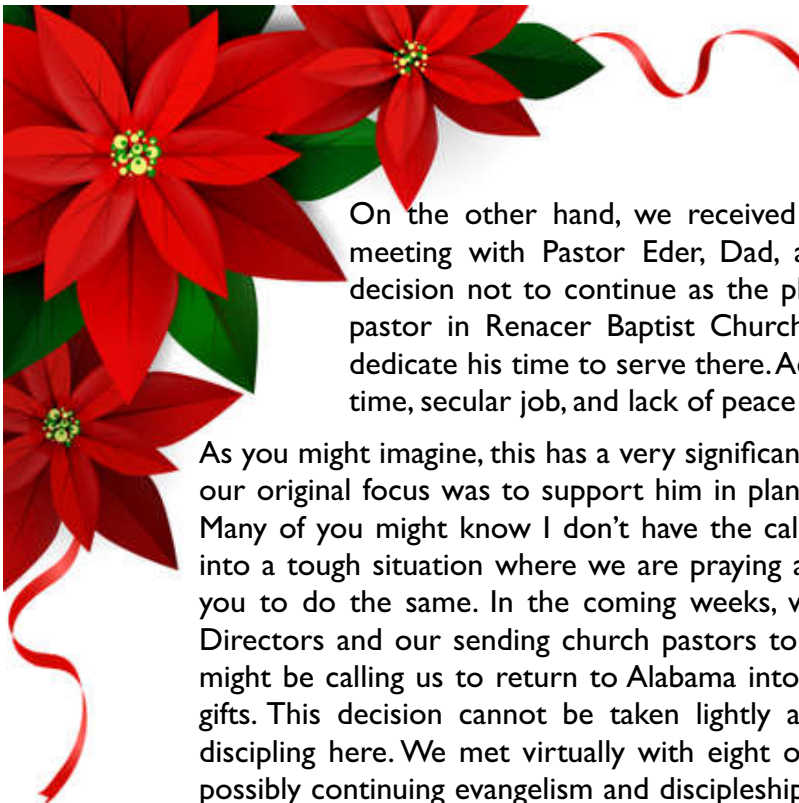


On the second day we were able to go to the village of Chorrillo. Since my family had brought us some wordless book color bracelets, Eri taught the wordless book and my mom was helping her with some songs and questions for the kids. We also gave them some American chocolates and they were so excited about that. After that we headed to Fernando and Paola's house. Lately they have shown a great interest in growing in their faith and are showing a clear understanding of the gospel. In a previous visit, Eri and I got excited because they were asking

us about baptism and how can they get baptized. We clarified the meaning of baptism and a few other things, and in the recent visit with pastor Eder and my family, we reminded them to ask Eder about it. He asked them a couple of questions about their confession of faith and assurance of their salvation. Their answer was so clear and complete that we couldn't hold back our happiness for them coming to Christ and now wanting to get baptized. Praise the Lord for He is good! We are now coordinating that special date for them to be baptized.

After that great visit we also went to another home where Eder asked questions about the previous theatrical play and the preaching from that day. He reminded them of the most important points.

In spite of the heat, mosquitos, bad water, and different foods, Dad, Mom and Jenny handled the trip very well. On a couple of the free days we took them to see some nice overlook points, do some shopping, and eat out. We hope that one day they'll get to see all the nice and beautiful places of Colombia and not just the rough missionary areas.



On the other hand, we received some not so good news. After having a very long meeting with Pastor Eder, Dad, and Eri while my family was here, Eder shared his decision not to continue as the planting pastor for Ambalema. Since being ordained as pastor in Renacer Baptist Church in Bogota, he feels like the Lord is calling him to dedicate his time to serve there. Adding to that some other personal reasons such as his time, secular job, and lack of peace about continuing in Ambalema in that role.

As you might imagine, this has a very significant and direct impact on us and the ministry there since our original focus was to support him in planting the church through various ways and in logistics. Many of you might know I don't have the calling or spiritual gifts of a pastor, so we are being put into a tough situation where we are praying and seeking the Lord to reveal His will to us and ask you to do the same. In the coming weeks, we are planning to meet with the Drive-In Board of Directors and our sending church pastors to share the situation with them, as we think the Lord might be calling us to return to Alabama into a role that is more suited to our particular spiritual gifts. This decision cannot be taken lightly and we have a huge burden for the people we are discipling here. We met virtually with eight of our volunteers from Bogota who are interested in possibly continuing evangelism and discipleship so as not to abandon those in Ambalema. Thank you so much for your prayers during this time as we consider what plans God has for us.

A few other odds and ends before we close. December 11-14 we will be taking six teens to youth camp put on by Renacer Baptist. We wanted to take more, but the parents didn't give them permission. We know God has a plan for these six. During camp, Eri will teach devotionals to one of the small groups, and I'll be operating the sound equipment.

We're planning to do something special for Christmas with the Bible study groups. We want to get the people together and highlight the reason why we celebrate Christmas (Jesus Christ). Pray that they will be willing to come together in a large group because they aren't accustomed to it.

We finished up our virtual English classes for the year in November. It was amazing to hear from one of the parents how before we arrived, they had been praying for a foreign language class teacher to teach their homeschoolers. They said they had all the other subjects covered except for foreign language. We are so happy that God used us to answer the prayer of someone else even though we didn't know we were being an answer to prayer. The students are thankful and happy to have English class. The parents told us that the kids actually look forward to that class and didn't want to take a break for the holidays.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support. We covet your prayers through this tough time with the changes that are taking place.

We hope that y'all have a wonderful Christmas!
In Christ,
Stephen and Erika

Feliz Navidad!



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