

A Year of Beginnings

This year has been a year of new beginnings. We have been rebuilding our webpage and Facebook page after we were unable to regain control after they had been illegally commandeered by unscrupulous individuals. We are making great progress in both areas. Please check them out! We are also rebuilding our accounting and mailing list as our previous forwarding agent refused to hand over the accounting and mailing lists. Again, we are making great progress with a few glitches here and there; glitches that we are working hard to overcome. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this process.

On a positive note, we were able to recover a significant amount of the embezzled funds and with that money we have done a major repair project and much needed refurbishing and repair at the camp to once again get it into optimum shape for the churches to use. While we work with churches all over the entire country of Colombia, many churches are distant enough and the roads in poor enough condition to make the camp impractical for the entire country. As a result, the camp is located about ten kilometers outside of Villavicencio, but serves the entire state and even the churches in the capital city of Bogotá.

In Colombia another new project for us is that we run regular health brigades in conjunction with Hasten International Medical Mission. They sponsor the physician and the orthodontist, and we provide the logistics and support personnel. It is truly a symbiotic partnership that provides a very much needed service to the poor and less fortunate of Colombia. Merriam Webster dictionary defines a Brigade as “a group of people organized for special activity. brigade.” When I refer to our health brigades, I am speaking precisely of that: “a group of individuals organized for a specific activity,” that in this case being a social service to the poor as we also share the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is an evangelistic program that share the Gospel through living the Good News as well as sharing in in our lives of service. We charge nothing for our services, and we give clothing, and Bibles to the needy as we serve them and share our faith.



Medical Team



Medical team Hasten registering patients.



The Van We Need

We are currently raising funds to purchase a fifteen-passenger van for these brigades and for the use with the camp program. We currently rely on public transportation but often that is complicated for scheduling and not infrequently the maintenance and condition of the vehicle is less than optimum. On one recent trip we had several injuries, including some severe, due to the poor condition of the vehicle and the very rough conditions on the road they were traveling on. Having our own vehicle, we can install the beefed-up suspension system that such a vehicle needs to be safe and ensure that it is always in good condition and ready for the trip that we have planned. The total cost of the vehicle is about \$90,000 of which we have currently raised \$27,000 towards that goal.

Legal proceedings are currently underway to recover more of the embezzled funds and put an end to the false accusations and defamation that so marred our last year. We are hopeful that now with the rebuilding and the efforts of the investigators that we have turned the corner and are now moving forward once again in the spectacular ministry that the Lord has privileged us to be a part of in Colombia, South America!



A baptism