



### Thankful and Faithful!

December is probably the favorite month for almost everyone. We have just finished our Thanksgiving feast, hunting season begins for many states. And of course, we are all preparing for the Christmas celebration where we stand in reverent awe at the work of God for our salvation in sending Jesus Christ as a baby to live, grow, and serve in perfect harmony with God's plan for Him and for us! Christmas is a time when we decorate. The Christmas tree represented life in death as the evergreen did not shed leaves as did the deciduous trees. The gifts we give are representative of the gifts the Wise Men brought to the Christ Child to celebrate His birth. We all sing the Christmas carols as we recognize that greatest of all gifts in the sending of Jesus to pay the propitiation of our sins and offer us new life in Him. It is without a doubt a most joyous of times for all; but especially for our children as we inspire in them the awe and joy of giving to others as our Lord gave so generously to us!

Here at Colombian Christian Mission, we have so much to be thankful for. First of all, as I write this on December 3rd, it is the first anniversary of my marriage to Nohelly, after six long lonely years as a widower. That is certain a great gift the Lord has given me. As we now serve together in ministry, we have survived and even prospered in a very difficult year, albeit with many trials. We have finished a refurbishing and upgrading at the camp property. We have added air conditioning for the heat and a light plant to provide water and refrigerator service with our frequent electrical service outages. We installed raised sidewalks to navigate the camp in the rainy season without boots or getting our shoes soaked. We painted every building on the camp to cover up the ubiquitous black mold that forms so quickly here in the tropics. As a result we have seen a very rapid increase in camp usage as nearly every weekend is booked up with one or two events. We have served more than 2,000 people in the course of this year and expect even more next year as we will start the year with the camp in excellent condition.

Another achievement is that we have continued to partner with Hasten and offer the gift of health and dental services to so many through the health and evangelism brigades that we hold nearly every weekend when we are in Colombia. We provide these services as a gift of love and with that gift we share the Good News of our Lord's gift of salvation with those who come. It has been such a blessing, and we are so thankful to Hasten for giving us the privilege of serving with them in this joyous ministry of serving the poor.

One unpleasant note and difficulty we have faced is the ongoing legal issues resulting from the embezzlement and then the shameful defamation campaign that was initiated in an attempt to cover up the illegal activity. I have had to sign off on agreeing to press charges against preachers, former friends, and even my offspring as their defamation caught the attention of state and federal prosecutors. In proving my innocence unfortunately, I had to agree to cooperate in prosecuting the guilty. If you hear of legal action involving preachers and churches you can rest assured that

it was forced upon my by the individuals who insisted in making false accusations and using defamation as a means of covering up their involvement in the embezzlement of mission funds and then refused to repent or try to repair the damage they have caused to the Lord's work in Colombia. I blame myself for failing to keep closer tabs on those handling the mission funds and certainly will be far more careful into the future.

So, as we move forward into the Christmas time, why not give the greatest gift of all by helping us share the Gospel with the people of Colombia and Latin America? Make this Christmas count by sending your love offering for the preaching of the Gospel and servicing the poor to the **Colombian Christian Mission, PO Box 95, Rittman, OH 44270**, or clicking on the [Zeffy Link below](#) and donating over the internet. In that way your blessing of Christmas will become a blessing to many as we move forward in the sharing of the Gospel, which is the greatest Christmas gift of all!



<https://www.zeffy.com/donation-form/6a878b78-d0e3-43de-bce9-9ccb28a5c5de>

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