

Journeys For Jesus

January passed in a blur as we finished up our activities in the States. We had a lot to try and pack into a short, five-week visit up to the states, so it was a bit hectic, but a very productive time and we praise the Lord for His watch care and safety as we traveled extensively on snowy roads in sub-freezing weather. I visited and preached in one of our supporting churches every single weekend. And even squeezed in a short three-week interim ministry in one of our supporting churches as they searched for a new minister. That was a special blessing with some very special people at the Fredericksburg church. I even helped them set up a coffee and donut ministry to encourage fellowship and treat the little ones who come to church. I joked with them that was one requirement Paul had in that third, lost letter to the Corinthian church! 😊



Also, having taken my wife and stepson, Daniel with me to the states in the dead of winter, part of the fun was watching them experience and enjoy the cold snowy season. Both my wife and stepson very much enjoyed the snowy and very cold winter. They made snow angels and complained about the extreme cold with the best of us! We were even finally able to build a snowman, which both of them had been wanting to do. Also, I took Daniel, my stepson muzzleloader hunting. We did not score a harvest but we both enjoyed our time out in the snowy woods. During the



weeks, whenever we were not on the road, we worked on getting the scholarship program into much better shape. As the embezzlers had stolen and used our mailing lists, sending out spurious and deceptive mailings, we were dealing with quite a bit of confusion and had to rebuild the program and mailing lists from scratch. We appreciate your patience and faithfulness as we worked through this process.



Then, the third week in January, we packed our suitcases and headed back to the warmth of Colombia. We packed and repacked as we tried to get in as much as possible in the form of dresses, shorts, and shirts to give out to the poor, needed items for ministry such as teaching materials, and also a very few personal items mixed into the maximum number of suitcase cases. In the end to get it all in we even paid Delta's outrageous fees to check one extra suitcase. Each of our suitcases was packed to the absolute maximum weight limit. The morning of our trip proved challenging as neither Uber nor Lyft were able to locate and send us a vehicle. Finally, Lyft managed to find a nice fellow driving a rather small Chevrolet HHR. That was much smaller than what we had requested, as there were three of us adults and 10 large suitcases, but he was the only driver and vehicle available. So, by each of us carrying a suitcase in our laps and putting one in the front seat with the three of us adults crammed into the back seat, we were able to make it to the airport but just barely in time to check in.



Arriving back in Colombia the first order of business was to finish the transfer of my visa from my passport into the new digital format. That had proved to be a formidable and expensive process but an absolutely necessary one. The paperwork had been completed and the fees largely paid by the time I had left for the states and upon my return I had ten days to get the actual visa secured online and a new Colombian ID card requested. We worked on that from our arrival until last Wednesday when finally all of the paperwork was completed and we made plans to head down over the mountains to the camp at Villavicencio early the next morning. My family packed into



the car again with people carrying suitcases on their laps and I rode the motorcycle down over the mountains. The very curvy mountain roads make for a fun and scenic motorcycle ride that I actually enjoy. Unfortunately, the snafu between the US president and the Colombian president made for some hard feelings and I had an expensive run in with a disgruntled cop. He was determined to find something he could ticket me for and prove we Americans must submit. I had no choice but to keep quiet and let him huff and puff then pay the fine for something I did not do, but that was the prudent action to take in that situation as it satiated his hubris.

We arrived back at the camp and were pleased to find out that with a few minor exceptions, they had done an excellent job at managing things in our absence. Even the shortcomings were due to not knowing what to do in certain situations rather than any actual failures to manage things correctly.



We were very pleased and thankful. Now we are busy getting the scholarship students that many of you so generously support registered in school as classes begin this very week. As always, we are very thankful for your partnership and support in this incredible ministry that the Lord is developing here in Colombia. Were it not for your generosity and faithfulness in the face of the attacks Satan launched against us in recent years, we would not have been able to continue.

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