

### Visitors, Visits to Schools and Non-Stop Action!

March was another month of near constant activity and so as it typical, it has passed in a blur as we developed three major projects. We had a work crew down for the second week of the month and so spent the first week getting ready and making arrangements. Then the next ten days was spent hosting that work crew. It was led by Brother Dave Lucas and the Zion Church of Christ, but we had representatives from two other churches as well. They came down with the primary mission of helping us replace our stolen website with a new one loaded with updated publicity materials ([www.colombianchristianmission.com](http://www.colombianchristianmission.com)). For that purpose, we held many typical activities that we would host during the year in that ten day space of time.

That included three events here at the church camp, with a Ladies retreat, a joint church service focused on the men, and then a youth rally. All three were well attended and a blessing to all who were present. The ladies meeting was all led and handled by the women themselves, and Sue Winn had the teaching and did an excellent job. The joint church service had several congregations present and brother Keith Winn had the teaching on discipleship. It was a very beneficial and important message as well as timely for the work here. The following Saturday we had the youth rally and brother Tom Bostic quickly developed a rapport with the teens and the meeting went great; topped off with all of the pizza and pop the kids could consume!



Tom Bostic, preacher from Orleans, Indiana, USA, speaks to youth as Dale Meade interprets.



Our visiting Work Team poses with the youth of a government school after a presentation.

We also visited and worked with a government school and then with a Christian school as well. In each one we shared the Gospel and shared some good times with the kids. We enjoyed the time with them as much as they enjoyed having us. In all of the schools our biggest problem was getting away as the kids did not want us to leave! With the government school we went to the advanced English classes and shared who we are and what we are doing, and in so doing we could share the Gospel as well. We are free to speak of the Bible and our Christian faith in the government schools here in Colombia. Later we went to the Christian school where brother Tom did one of his magic tricks and then applied that to the Gospel. The kids were enthralled! Later



we visited every one of the classrooms in groups of two and shared a basic English lesson. Our time with the kids was great and we all very much enjoyed that interaction!

We held a Hasten Health and Evangelism Clinic in one of the rough areas of town. We took an armed guard along just to be on the safe side with the “Gringo” crew. There we provided free dental and medical services while at the same time we shared the Gospel. Also at that event we passed out the shorts and shirts that the Zion church had provided for the little boys and passed out some dresses for the girls as well. It was a rewarding experience as we were touched by the needs of the people and honored to not only be able to provide a much-needed service but also to share the one true hope for everyone, which is the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. We appreciate Hasten having partnered with us to make this ministry possible.

Finally, we wanted to crew to see some of the jungle and countryside where we do much of our work, so we took them out to a ranch for a day. We left at 3:30 in the morning and headed out into the jungle/prairie region. The area is relatively calm with only some minor banditry, so we again took an armed guard with us out of an abundance of caution. We arrived and they had already “killed the fatted calf” and were beginning the process of roasting the meat over a slow, smokey fire. They make us the traditional “sancocho” or a type of stew that goes with that meal. On top of the great meal the crew could also see how the country folks live and work in these regions of Colombia. We ended the day with a short worship service then headed back into town to avoid being out in the countryside after dark.

After they left, we took a couple of days to rest and get the camp cleaned up from all of that activity. But we did not rest too long as we had other important projects in the works. The crew left on a Monday and I returned to Villavo as my wife and our Colombian helpers was busy getting things organized and ready at the camp. Then on Friday of that same week, we had an eight-hour drive on Friday to a small city up the side of the Andes mountains but still in the jungle/Prairie region. There we held another Hasten Medical and Evangelism brigade all day Saturday where we working in an “invasion” where poor people had fled the fighting and simply settled on a piece of land near the city.

The needs there were overwhelming and the security situation so delicate that security would not allow me to go outside of the building where we were providing the medical services. We tended to patients in the dental and medical area all morning and then held a youth rally in the afternoon. After the excitement of that event we went back to attending to patients. Then Sunday I preached for the two services at the local Christian Church and the crew spent the morning attending to more patients. Then after lunch we boarded our rented bus and headed back to Villavicencio, arriving late that night. We were tired by being exuberant and having offered significant help to a significant number of people.

The next week was spent getting ready for the Christian schools here in town that would begin using the camp the following week. For nearly fifty years I worked with a Christian school I had started with Juan Pinzon, one of our elders here. When that school was taken over by secular interests and lost its Christian focus and deliberately ended all working relationship with the

church, I began working with the other Christian schools here in town that had remained faithful to their calling and purpose. As a result, now every one of the Christian schools in town is making use of the camp and in that way, we have greatly expanded the service we provide to the students. What seemed like a problem turned out to be a blessing for all! After all, “the Lord works all things for the good of those who serve Him!” With school having started. In February, by March the schools were ready to begin their outing to the camp. We hosted our first school camp this week with seven and eight year olds here for two days and one night. We now have school programs set up for most every week for the rest of the school year.



Visiting Team members hold small group interactive meets at a government school.



Dale Meade, Colombian Christian Mission, speaks to hundreds of youth at the school.

So as you can see, it was a very busy month and is the beginning of our very busy time of the year as we move into full use of the camp facility as we serve the Lord by serving his people! We can only do this because of your partnership with us in this ministry here in Colombia. We thank each and everyone of you who has sent in your love offerings and generous gifts to support this work that the Lord is doing here in Colombia. Below you will find the QR code for donating online or you can send a check to:

**Colombian Christian Mission**  
**PO Box 95, Rittman, OH 44270**

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