

MISSION PLANNING AND LOGISTICS

From North to South, USA

This month saw us taking our very long road trip with the Hasten International Medical Mission team. We departed from Ohio and traveled to their board meeting in North Carolina then on to Florida where I visited with Paul and Patty Odham, great friends, coworkers in Colombia, and supporters of our mission work.



Hasten Medical Meeting

It all began on Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 when the medical mission crew arrived from Colombia at Cleveland Hopkins Airport. My wife and step son Daniel landed together with Tannia Carmargo, our dentist, and her mother Sandy. My stepdaughter Thalia also arrived from California. I picked them up at the airport then we headed to Rittman, where we spent a rather short night before getting up early and heading out on the 8 hour drive to North Carolina. We arrived in early afternoon and headed straight to the Meet and Greet supper event with the Hasten board and a group of supporters. There we enjoyed a great evening meal of Carolina Barbecue then we shared with the work we are doing there in Colombia with all of them. We then retired to our hotel rooms for a night of much needed rest.

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Airports, Vehicles and Journeys

The next morning we were up early, had breakfast together, and then headed out to the official board meeting of Hasten International Medical Mission. There we presented the work in more detail, including all that is going well and also the difficulties and challenges we face. We were thrilled to see the work that Hasten is doing in India, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic as well. After our presentation and the presentation of the other works, they dismissed us for their business meeting and treated us to a trip to an interesting natural science museum. That is a very nice local attraction that seems to get little notice except from the locals. Once again we rested up and then the next morning we headed out to Florida where I had meetings with the Odhams. The rest of the team headed to Disney world for a time enjoying the attractions there. After three days we headed back up to North Carolina for another meeting with members of the Hasten board and then rested in our hotel. The next morning we were up early and headed out for our return trip to Rittman, Ohio. The weather was again treacherous with snow and ice but we made it safely, thanks to the Lord's watch care.



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Team Debrief and Next Steps

The team packed their suitcases late into the night then hit the sack. The next morning everyone was again up very early as we needed to be at the airport by 6 AM. I filled the car with suitcases and all seven of us. We made it to the airport on time and without difficulties and the team checked in for their flight back to Colombia. I remained in the States another three more days to finish up a few organizational details and then I caught an Uber to the airport on Tuesday morning, February 10th. My flight left at 6AM, so I had to be at the airport by 3AM. So after a very short night I caught my plane to Atlanta and then from there on into Bogota. Colombia, arriving in late afternoon. I caught a taxi to the apartment and crashed for some much needed rest.



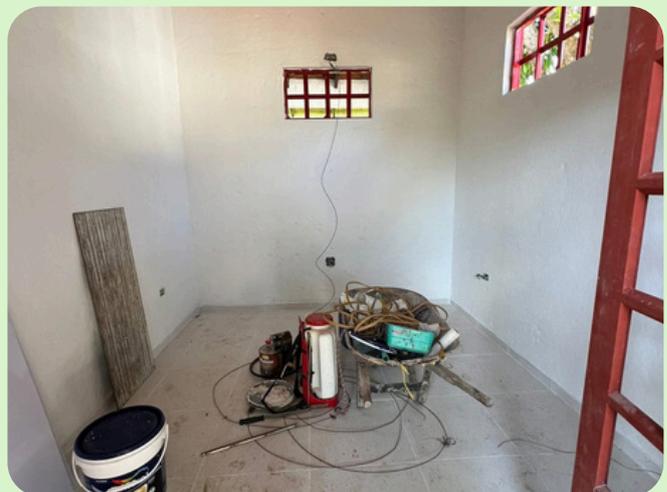
Back to Bogota

I spent the next three days in Bogota doing paperwork. Then on Saturday my family arrived from Villavicencio, as my wife had a medical exam that she needed and could only be done in Bogota. Then, Monday after her medical test we all piled into the car and headed down through the Andes mountains to Villavicencio, arriving late on Monday evening. From that time till the present, I have been getting settled back into the tropical climate and the work here in Colombia. It is good to be back but a bit of a jolt to go from dark cloudy twenty below and two feet of snow to the humid 90s and brilliant sun here in Colombia. I am sure you all feel for me, don't you? ;-).

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Resuming, Reorganizing and Requesting

I now look forward to preaching and sharing the Good News on a daily basis and in participating in the camp activities as we get things moving for this new year of activities. Here at the camp we are trying to finish up the small office addition to the cabin my wife and I live in and that means everything is a wreck and totally disorganized. But we are hoping to get things finished up and back together soon to have some rest from all of the activities and chaos of this past month! Part of just process is getting our living quarters back into inhabitable condition. You can help us and partner with us in this project and this exciting ministry with your generous donations and love offerings and help us once again have a comfortable place to live!



We Need Prayers and Gifts

Please think about supporting our Christ-centered work here with a one-time gift, become a monthly donor, or, if God moves you, send a significant donation. We confirm that we are a legitimate non-profit organization. All gifts go straight to our work and are tax deductible.



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