Colombian Christian Mission
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# COMPLETING TASKS FOR 2026

## Wrapping Up Loose Ends

As we approach the end of the year, we work to wrap up loose ends and and finish up the year well. As part of that process we are struggling to pay of the scholarships as when the year began we were getting considerably more for Colombian pesos for each US dollar. So we committed to paying a certain amount of scholarship but when the US dollar collapsed in value, it left us committed to paying much more in dollars than the amount we received from the sponsors. The dollar lost approximately 40% of it's value meaning we are paying out in dollars 40% more than the money we received. But since we made the commitment and the schools were counting on receiving that amount of money, we were not about to fail to keep our word to them. But that has left us struggling with overdrafts in our account as we struggle to finish up the year in black and pay all that we promised to the schools. We trust the Lord will provide. Next year though we will offer a lower amount with a promise to increase if the value of the dollar climbs again. Some may ask why we did not plan for that this year. The answer in simple; in fifty three years in Colombia this has never happened before. The dollar has always increased in value and has never before decreased, and then to have it lose so much value so quickly was unprecedented and that really hit us hard. So it caught us totally by surprise but we will certainly factor that possibility into our calculations from now on out.



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## Hasten International Partnership

This month, as always we held two Hasten International Medical and Evangelism Brigades. However this month it turned out somewhat differently from normal. We plan a brigade every other week, as that gives the team time to rest and to work at they primary jobs. But our first brigade, which was scheduled for a mountainous area some distance from Villavicencio had to be postponed as a night of heavy rain caused a landslide that blocked the road on the morning of the day we had planned for the event. As time passed our scheduled second brigade arrived and we held it in a deprived area of Villavicencio, but when that same weekend news arrived that the road to the location of our rural brigade had been cleared and was now open, the team decided to do two brigades two days in a row so as to not leave the rural area unattended until next month.



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## Colombian Officials Impressed

When it became known we were heading out there the physician who heads up the local social services in Villavicencio asked to accompany us. We have applied to secure registration as a Christian aid organization in our state as required by the government but also to have access to donated medications and nutritional supplements that the government hands out to such organizations. The director traveled out with the team and observed and even participated as she is also a physician. As we ended she commented how impressed she was that we went to areas no one else was willing to go to and that we served with such obvious compassion and care for the poor that we attended to. That encouraged us and it will almost certainly help us secure the required registration and permissions for our work.



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## The Rigors of Colombian Visa Applications

Finally, I am still tied up here in the states as I am working to conclude my wife's visa application and other legal issues. I was informed last month that all of the paperwork was in order and accepted. Now I am waiting on the National Visa Service to assign an interview date in the American Embassy in Bogotá. Once that has been done then there is no risk of them requiring additional paperwork or requesting a repeated submission as they have done both several times over the last year while I have been working on this visa. When I traveled to Colombia in January, I had barely arrived when they demanded some additional paperwork but being in Colombia I did not have access to what they required and with too long of a period of inactivity and they cancel the process and one must begin anew. So this time I will make sure all is in order and accepted and that the embassy has assigned an inteview date before I travel back to Colombia.



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## My Wife Willingly Works

But while I am detained up here, my lovely wife is working away there in Colombia keeping the camp running and organizing and directing the Hasten medical brigades as she is very capable at both. We ask for your prayers as I work to finish things up here in the States and for her as she works there in Colombia.

“This is the LORD's doing; It is marvellous in our eyes.”

Psalm 118:23 KJV



## And Finally

Finally, as always, I have been amazed at all the Lord has done and continues to do in Colombia. I have been honored to have a small part in an amazing and massive transformation of that country in a relatively short period of time. And as always I thank those of you who have supported us so faithfully over the years. I also invite and encourage those of you who have not yet joined us to become a part of this amazing ministry with your prayers and regular donations to the work. The Lord will bless you and we will be immensely thankful!

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