



## Praises!

- New Supporters
- Safety on road
- 70% support reached

## Prayer Requests

- Fall meetings to go well
- Effectiveness in presenting
- Folks to be saved
- Remaining 30% support
- Language school transition January



I apologize that this prayer letter is so late. The last few weeks have been a whirlwind for us. It all began when our bus transmission needed to be rebuilt. Thank you, Brother Rob from Indiana for spending an entire day helping me get it to Tennessee for repair and for Jim Clements Transmission rebuilding it. Thank you to the churches who sent love offerings, which covered the entire cost. We are humbled and grateful to each for your sacrifice. Also, thank you to the church in Indiana who loaned us their church van. Our entire plans were rearranged, but God's never were! Thank you to all who have been praying for us even without knowing our needs specifically.

## Childlike Faith

As parents, we desire to see our children learn to trust God and see answers to prayer. In family devotions we talk about family needs, church needs, and pray for God to work in these circumstances. On a Friday night recently,



Timothy, our six-year-old, prayed that God would provide four churches to support us. It made me swallow hard to hear as we have never had more than one take us on at a time. Yet, the thought crossed my mind, why not, God can do anything. When it was my turn to pray, I prayed along with him that God would provide four supporters. The following Monday, a church called saying they had voted to take us on. Tuesday, a pastor called to tell us they voted to take us on. Thursday, another pastor called and said they had taken us on. By then, Timothy, Amanda and I were excited and wondering about God's answer to our prayer. Saturday, while driving to our next meeting, I was praying, "Lord, would you please show us who the fourth supporter is?" A few minutes later, an email came from an individual saying God was leading them to support us. We rejoiced together as a family for the very definite answer to prayer. God provided four supporters—all in one week. Oh, to always have a heart full of child-like faith.

## **“We saw little heads”**

While driving through Land O' Lakes, Florida, last week in the rain, all of a sudden, I noticed the van we were borrowing wouldn't accelerate. It had shut off by itself while driving. We were in pretty heavy traffic in the fast lane, so I bumped it into neutral and coasted to a turning lane where the van stopped. We were directly across from an auto parts store. I tried various things for about an hour to try and start the van, but to no avail. It would crank beautifully—just not start.

Around dark, two young men were leaving their auto repair shop across the street and said they “saw a bunch of little heads in the back” of our van. They decided to stop and help us. They pulled our van back to their shop and spent the next four hours trying to fix the van. Around midnight, they gave us a ride to a motel. Praise the Lord, the next day, we were able to head on to Tennessee after they fixed the van.

One of the many blessings that came out of our breakdown was meeting an Uber driver the next morning who was a Palestinian Muslim. Prior to moving to Tampa, he used to own a shop close to a Christian University and had hired many students to work for him. I asked him if any of them had ever shared how he could have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and know he was going to heaven. “Yes. Of course. Many Times!” was his reply. I was able to talk more with him while he drove and left him with a gospel tract from a great church near him in Tampa. What a reminder that some people plant, some water, and God gives the increase. May this man soon come to know Christ as his all-sufficient Savior.



## Progress, Plans, and Prayer Requests

Thank you to all who have been supporting us the last year and a half. Thank you also to Tabernacle Baptist Church in Wilson, NC; Temple Baptist Church in Lenoir, NC; People's Baptist Church in Frederick, MD; New Heights Baptist Church in Wylie, TX; Southside Baptist Church in Tampa, FL; and the individual who took our family on for support over the last several weeks!

We have reached 70% support now and have begun to make plans for the next steps toward Colombia. After talking with our pastor and deputation director, we have decided to apply for language school beginning January 11, 2021. Please pray for our application and plans for language training. It is especially vital for Amanda, as it will help her and the kids adapt so much more quickly to life and ministry there in Colombia. She has been working so hard to be able to test into second-semester Spanish. This would enable us to finish language school in May, 2021. Lord willing, we would fly to Colombia, June 2021.

One of the prayer requests we have not felt liberty to share before was that God would supply someone to help watch our kids while Amanda and I are in language school. Praise the Lord, God answered and my sister Joanna has decided to come and help us. This is a huge sacrifice for her, and we are so grateful she is coming. The kids can't wait to see "Aunt Joanna" every day.



Some specific prayer requests we have would be for strength for the remaining 16 weeks we have before language school begins. We have a very heavy schedule. October 11 and October 14, we will be driving through the night to make it to commitments. Please pray for safety and an effective ministry. Other long trips will be from Michigan to Denver, Minnesota to New Hampshire, New Jersey to Miami, and Miami to Texas for language school. We covet your prayers for safety and alertness.

Thank you all for your prayers and support for our family and deputation ministry. God is definitely answering your prayers for us. We pray He meets your needs as well!

Your servant to Colombia,  
Matt for the Smith Family