



## Praises!

- ◆ Lewey accepted Christ!
- ◆ We found a good church near the language school
- ◆ More meetings scheduled
- ◆ Another supporting church

## Prayer Requests

- ◆ Upcoming church votes
- ◆ Safety on the road
- ◆ Strength for meetings as we minister to churches
- ◆ May trip to the Amazon
- ◆ God to bless meetings and call young people to serve Him



## Answered Prayer

Thank you to all who prayed for us to be able to locate a good language school and sound Spanish-speaking church. God answered your prayers in an amazing way! Not having been able to schedule many meetings for January, I decided to take a few days to go look at a language school. Although we still have a ways to go in raising our support, I wanted to know where God wants us for language school after deputation. The best option seemed to be a Spanish language school close to the Mexican border in Texas. My biggest prerequisite was a doctrinally sound, Spanish-speaking independent Baptist church, where we can learn the Spanish ministry during our language training. Sunday morning came and I could only find one church online that looked like it might work. What a surprise upon arriving that not only was the church everything we had hoped and prayed for, but also that the pastor's wife had grown up in Colombia to missionary parents. What a help this will be to Amanda, as she learns Spanish, to have someone

who knows Colombia firsthand! Another blessing for me was to find that the academic dean for the language school is also a former missionary to Colombia. God has put people in place that can help us learn Spanish and can help us learn about the country He has called us too!

## Changed plans

”Has anyone ever shown you how to be sure you are going to heaven?” I asked Lewey. We had just met on the sidewalk outside the old motel we were staying in. A rather unusual thing for our family to do as we usually pull our trailer and stay in church parking lots or at the local Walmart. We weren’t even supposed to be here at this motel, but our plans had changed last minute. I had booked another motel quite a distance away. However, we hadn’t known the other motel was so far from the church and we really needed to be closer to make it to our Sunday meeting the next morning. We drove around trying to find a motel near the church and finally decided on the nearest motel and went in to make a last-minute reservation. It wasn’t hard to spot Lewey, there he was—sitting there in his wheelchair outside his room. He was smoking, like cigarettes were going out of style. “Poor guy!” I thought. “I can’t even imagine sitting out in the snow to smoke.” Later that night, after the kids were in bed, I decided to go down to the hotel lobby to do some last-minute studying. As I rounded the corner of the hotel, I noticed Lewey, sitting out in his wheelchair again, smoking for all he was worth. I greeted him warmly as I passed, but I couldn’t get away from the conviction of the Holy Spirit to turn around and talk to him about Christ. “Has anyone ever shown you how to be sure you are going to heaven?” I asked as I turned and walked back toward him. It only took 10 or 15 minutes of my time—but that conversation changed the rest of time and eternity for old Lewey, when he asked, toward the end of our conversation, “How do I do that?” “How can I be saved?” There, in his wheelchair, outside his room near Chicago, Lewey called out to Jesus for salvation. Praise the Lord, our plans had changed—but God’s hadn’t!

## Support

We are so grateful for another church taking us on since our last prayer letter! This puts us at 35% of our needed support. We are so grateful for everyone who supports us. Without it, we cannot go to Colombia, or even be on deputation. Thank you to all! Also, thank you to everyone who supports us by prayer. We depend on each of you for safety, effectiveness in ministry, and God’s continued blessing. May He richly bless you in return!

Your servant to Colombia,  
Matt for the Smith Family

