



Praises!

- Language School Acceptance
- One Meeting Left
- Almost 97% support reached

Prayer Requests

- Placement Tests
- Language school
- Visa Process
- Final Preparations



Activity

Please forgive the lateness of this prayer letter. These last two months have been a whirlwind of activity and traveling. Early November, our entire family contracted Covid and had to come off the road for quarantine. God was gracious through it and everyone recovered well. From there, it has been non-stop traveling and meetings. We have had meetings in MI, MN, NH, ME, NJ, MD, VA, and Aruba. God has provided safety along the way.

Aruba

Our most unusual meeting was in Aruba. A missionary there who pastors the only independent Baptist church on the island invited our family to come down and preach at their missions conference. We had prayed that God would fill our schedule and didn't have the week before Christmas scheduled. What a joy to be with Brother Shields, his wife and eight children and see the work God has called them to. The Shields were planting churches in Mexico before God directed them to Aruba. We met people on the island from Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba, and several other Latin American countries. The schedule was busy the entire week. I was able to preach twice in English and four times in Spanish as well as three times on their Spanish radio station, which is heard over in Venezuela and across Latin America via the internet. It was a tremendous opportunity. The kids loved having so many playmates for the week. Please pray for the Shields as they continue to minister to the people of Aruba. Many Americans view it as a tropical paradise resort Island—but it really is like anywhere else in the world. A place where many people don't know the truth of the Gospel and where more laborers are needed.

Headed to language school

It is hard to believe deputation is coming to a close. God has provided so many wonderful friends and supporters along the way, and we are thankful to each of you. We were able to spend what will probably be our final Christmas for several years with my parents in MD. Amanda went through all our things from our trailer and storage at my parents, and we got together what will be needed for language school and then Colombia. We have finished our time living in the trailer and are packed for language school. We look like hillbillies with all our things loaded in the back of the bus.

Lord willing, January 3 will be our last deputation meeting in Miami, FL, and then we will drive over to Edinburg, TX, for language school. God has provided almost 97% of our support, and we trust He will provide the last little bit in His time. We are glad we made the decision to go to language school in January no matter where we were at in our support or we would have to wait until next August to begin. God has been so good.

Prayer Requests and Praises

Praise the Lord, God has graciously supplied all our outfit-and-passage needs to go to Colombia. Thank you to all of you for your sacrifices and generosity to us.

Some important prayer requests in the days and months ahead are:

Our placement tests for the language school the second week of January. We are praying both Amanda and I place into second semester.

Effective language acquisition. The next several months will be very intense as Amanda and I spend most of our time in classes, with Spanish tutors, and evenings doing Spanish homework. Please pray that we are able to learn quickly and retain what we learn.

Praise the Lord, my sister will be there to help watch our children while we are studying. Please pray the children adjust well to hearing Spanish all around them at the language school and at church. It will prepare them for adjustment to Colombia.

Ordination and commissioning preparations. Lord willing, the end of May or beginning of June we will come back to our sending church for my ordination and our commissioning service.

Visa application process and final preparations to go well.

Thank you all for your prayers and support for our family and deputation ministry!

Your servant to Colombia,
Matt for the Smith Family

