

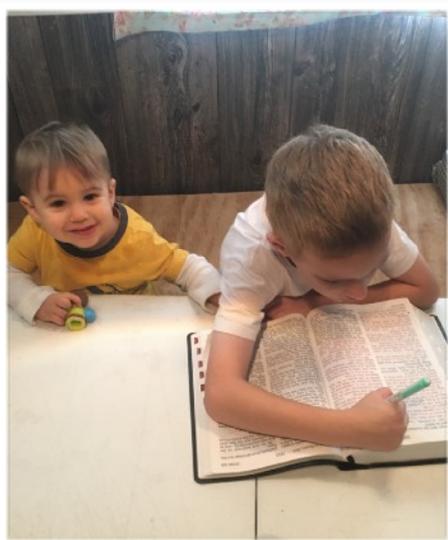


## Praises!

- New Supporters
- Safety on road
- 80% support reached

## Prayer Requests

- Vinny who has Leukemia
- Upcoming meetings
- Folks to be saved
- Remaining support



## He is Still God in the Valley

Life is not meant to always be lived on mountain-peak experiences. We do well to remember what God has done on the mountain when we go through the valley experiences of life. He is still in control, and we praise Him that He knows our needs, even before we do. Not long after our last prayer letter, we arrived at a church in Jacksonville, North Carolina, for a Wednesday night service. Amanda's six-year-old nephew Vinny had been going through a series of medical tests, and we were waiting to hear the results. The pastor took our family to supper before the service and on the way to the restaurant, Amanda got word that little Vinny was diagnosed with leukemia. I knew as we pulled into the restaurant that the news was bad. Amanda was crying as she hung up the phone and took a little time to get out of the bus. God, in His providence, had put us at that church at just the right time for the encouragement Amanda needed. The pastor, Jon McConkey, and his wife have an 11-year-old son, who has been battling bone cancer for the past several months. He knew what to say right away from his own experiences. He was such a help to Amanda. We are so grateful that our paths intersected when they did. Please pray with us for Amanda's nephew Vinny and his family. They are not saved and are closed to listening to the Gospel. Please pray for God to use this to bring them to salvation.

## Only God Can...

We are constantly amazed at how God is working in so many people's lives as we go through deputation. Each meeting is an intersecting of multiple pathways. Only eternity will reveal all that God is and will be doing as a result. Let me try to explain

by sharing some of the amazing things that God has done in orchestrating a few of meetings we have coming up.

On November 4, we will have the privilege of presenting in a church that sent a missionary family to Suriname, South America more than 22 years ago. My parent's church was one of the last churches that their family visited on deputation. I was only 12 at the time—but as a result of that visit, I accepted Christ. That missionary preached a message on Matthew 9:37-38 that impacted me. It took root 16 years later when Amanda and I began to pray for God to send laborers to Colombia. Now we are the missionaries visiting their sending church.

On November 10, we will be presenting in a church in Denver, Colorado, that my parents attended in the early 1980s. While we were in Arizona earlier this summer, we met a lady who knew my parents almost 40 years ago in Denver. She recommended that I contact the church, and now we are going to present there. God had to take us to Arizona to schedule a meeting in Colorado. Please pray for us to be a blessing to this church.

On November 11, we will be presenting at a church in Ulysses, Kansas. Ulysses is where I was born and where my Dad pastored for five years. Although my family moved away when I was a baby, it has always been my desire to one day see that town again. We had been unsuccessful scheduling a meeting anywhere near Ulysses for more than a year, when I ran across the name of a pastor and church there. After the pastor said we could send our deputation packet, he asked me if I had time for him to share something over the phone. “My wife and I were both interested in Colombia, South America, as college students,” he said. “In fact, we were just talking this last Sunday about Colombia and that if God were to call us there—we would go tomorrow!” Please pray with us for this meeting. We are excited to present our call in a place where the pastor himself has considered the need of Colombia. Please also pray for contacts of folks my dad still has in Ulysses—some of whom are lost folks and that we would have an opportunity to minister to them even after 30 years have passed.

On November 29, we will be presenting at the church in New Hampshire, where Amanda surrendered to do God's will for her life. She had graduated from a state university and was working for Keene State College in a town in New Hampshire, where God had called an Ambassador graduate to start a church. God put Amanda in touch with the church, and she began to attend. The preaching fed her soul like she hadn't experienced since she was a teenager when her family dropped out of church. One night, during a revival meeting, she surrendered her life to the Lord and later moved to North Carolina to get Bible training at Ambassador Baptist College. We tried unsuccessfully to contact this church early on in deputation. However, about two months ago, the current pastor got our name from another missionary and called to schedule us to present our call to Colombia. He had no idea that it was in his church that God had changed Amanda's heart.



## **A Christmas Blessing**

Last year, we had a very difficult time scheduling meetings in December. Praise the Lord, God has provided meetings for every Sunday in December this year, three of the five Wednesday nights, and two missions conferences. It truly is a Christmas blessing that we do not deserve.

We want to share the story of one of the meetings, since it is something God began working on 19 years ago.

On September 11, 2001, a national guardsman pastor was just a couple of weeks away from retirement. His unit had his retirement party, but due to the national security crisis brought by the attack, he was called to active duty and sent to a base four miles from my parent's church in Maryland. I will never forget the Sunday he walked into church with cowboy boots, a large Stetson hat and the biggest smile I had ever seen. For the next several months, he was a tremendous blessing to our church and family. He would bring fellow soldiers from the base to church, and almost every Sunday afternoon, they would eat with our family. We were very sad to see his deployment end. I had tried to contact his church earlier this year but was unsuccessful. My parents sent him a prayer card, and he found it after a move. Two weeks ago, he called, and when he heard that we only had December 27 open, he scheduled us to come and present our ministry. We cannot wait to see this dear pastor again and look forward to the renewed fellowship we will have. Please pray that we can be a blessing to his church and him.

## **New Support and School Application**

Praise the Lord for Fairfax Baptist Temple taking our family on for support! We were so encouraged to be a part of their 50th anniversary celebration and are very grateful for their partnering with us to take the Gospel to Colombia.

Please pray with us as we have applied to language school for January. We haven't yet heard back about acceptance but have gotten all our required paperwork to them. Lord willing, we will be in language school until May and then in June, head to Colombia.

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

Your servant to Colombia,  
Matt for the Smith Family

