

Colombia Up-date for March, 2008
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Dear Praying Friends,

When we look at the news, there is a lot to alarm and depress us. In Colombia we see violence of every kind, families driven from their homes by insurgents, and terrorists who finance their activities by producing and marketing narcotics. In the States soaring prices, economic instability, natural disasters, and increasing instances of violent attacks in schools and businesses fill the media. If we were to concentrate on all the bad news, we could become despondent and fearful. But we who know the Lord have an alternative. On the night before His crucifixion Jesus told His friends: "In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, NIV) The forces of evil are strong, but our God is also at work in people's lives. Let me share with you a little of what He is doing in my part of Colombia. I hope it will encourage your heart.

A few months ago Mónica visited my home. She teaches dentistry in one of the local colleges, and also administers part of the educational program. Mónica came with a heart full of guilt and confusion. That day she received Christ as Savior, and has been attending church regularly ever since. I also have weekly classes with her, and the Lord has done some exciting things in her life. She still struggles, however, with certain temptations, and her very full schedule does not allow much time for outside activities. Please pray that Mónica will put the Lord first in her life, and that she will grow in understanding and obedience to His Word.

There are five TEAM related churches in the Bucaramanga area, and most of them are growing rapidly. The Lord is allowing me to work closely with four of the churches, and it is encouraging to see new people receiving Christ, and others returning to the church who had left years ago for various reasons. The Central church has initiated a Bible School program by correspondence, and a number of people are studying to be able to serve God better. Please pray for the pastor's of each of these churches, that they will be faithful to the Lord, to His Word, and to His people.

So far as my personal activities go, my time is pretty well taken up with writing the Oidores y Hacedores Bible study materials, leading 3 Bible studies a week in my home, and a large number of personal classes and counseling. A lot of people call for advice and prayer over the phone. Last year I was able to complete a 37 lesson course on religions titled: "I Want to Defend my Faith". Just last week I finished the rough draft of a 22 lesson course on dating and marriage named: "I Want to Learn to Love". (Both titles sound better in Spanish.) A book on Romans titled: "Our Wonderful Salvation" should be on the market by the time you get this. The publisher is beginning this week to work on the design for the next book. This will be aimed at young teens and is called: "¿Who am I?" Please pray that I will be true to the Lord and His Word in all I write and teach. Also that God will grant me some of His infinite creativity to make the lessons interesting, relevant and captivating. The publisher also needs your prayers as they struggle with costs and distribution. We are pleased that a new market is opening in Guatemala, and need your intercession that these study books will reach the hands of those who need them.

Let me share with you a few of my plans for the future so that you can pray with me for the Lord's direction and blessing. I have been asked to speak at a regional women's convention this June, and plan to deal with some practical issues such as the problem of guilt, the need for forgiveness, and how to treat disillusionment. Pray that the Lord will be preparing my heart, and the hearts of the ladies who will attend. TEAM has officially closed the Colombia field, and I am here only until July, 2009 in order to work on the Oidores y Hacedores Bible study courses. The mission is in the process of selling the apartment I've lived in for the last 14 years, although I hope to be able to continue staying here on a rental basis until the end of my term in Colombia. I plan to settle in Twin Falls, ID, where some of my family lives, and serve the Lord there both in the writing ministry, as well as with Spanish speaking immigrants of the area. I have permission to continue to serve as full time missionary, working on the last stages of the literature project, until the end of 2010, when I'll be retiring from active ministry.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your part in the work God has given me. We truly are laborers together with Him. I praise the Lord for your faithful prayers, and for those of you who support me financially. I'm praying for you, too, that you will be filled today with the love and joy of the Lord Jesus.

Praising God for you,
Sue Seiferling
(Serving in Colombia with The Evangelical Alliance Mission)