



▶ BASKETBALL CAMP IN CHIA, COLOMBIA 1

○ COLOMBIA | ○ SUMMER | ○ 2008



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Alonsos Prayer letter

Basketball Camp



A team of sixteen people from Campus Baptist Church "Jonathan's sending church" arrived on June 27th to help us with the first international basketball camp in Chía, Colombia. Jonathan worked for weeks with another missionary to put this basketball camp together. I had the blessing to be part of it as a translator and also teaching the Word of God. I am going to use most of the report about the camp that Jonathan wrote for his prayer letter. The camp was held from July 1-4, and we had about 65-70 kids each morning. Kerry, a 6'9" professional basketball player, shared each morning about his

experiences in sports and how they related to having a personal relationship with Christ. Jonathan and I shared the eight essential gospel truths from the Bridge of Life (a new evangelistic material from ABWE), relating each one to basketball. On the Saturday after the camp we had a youth activity at our church and 23 kids showed up, a number of whom made professions of faith in Christ. We were able to give a New Testament to every one of the kids and several adults, including the mayor of Chía. This team was a great blessing!

As a result of the basketball camp, we've had a number of open doors for ministry. We started up our youth group again after more than a year without that ministry, and we've had four new teens come out. Perhaps the greatest blessing has been to see the transformation in the life of María Clemencia, who is the daughter of Alfonso, one of our faithful members. She's a different person now. Her son Nicholas came to the camp, and God opened her heart towards us and the Word of God. They have been attending for the last few weeks, and show a desire to grow in God's Word.



Preaching

I had the privilege to be the speaker at a revival week on the beautiful Colombian Island of San Andres. I preached eight sermons at Central Baptist Church from July 13 to July 20. The interim "and only" pastor is a former member of our church in Chia. I am the pastor who married Alex and Ariadna more than three years ago and it was a great blessing to see them serving the Lord in a church of over 200 members.

This is a very interesting Colombian island. Natives are black and speak English, Spanish and Creole. English is used for religion and school, Spanish for business and Creole for family and friends.

The Island is spectacular, so next time you plan your vacation consider San Andres Island in Colombia. It is very affordable and there is no guerilla at all.

Z Group



From left to right: Jose Alonso, Ricardo Moreno, Scott Carter, Alfredo Medina, Jonathan Boyd.

Jonathan and I have been working with another missionary and two other Colombian pastors for over a year. We formed a group called "the Z Group." The idea of this group is to fulfill God's end "Z" for Colombia, which is that every Colombian has the chance to hear the gospel. The missionary families who arrived in Colombia almost 30 years ago and earlier concentrated their efforts in the Capital city, Bogota and most of our churches are located in this part of the country. A common burden grew in our hearts to start a new church planting movement in other parts of Colombia. This is how Jonathan, Scott, Alfredo, Ricardo and me formed this "Z group." We have been getting together almost every month or two to pray, share ideas and study a church planting material. The team has done four trips seeking the will of God and studying the different cities in Colombia trying to find the best opportunity to start new churches and even a Bible Institute. We are looking for a location that can serve as a future base of operations for church planting in neighboring cities. The whole team traveled through the Coffee region of Colombia and we ended in Cali. Cali is a very good option; it is a city with a population of approximately 2.5 million. People are very nice and open to the gospel, the weather is warm all year long and there are many cities nearby with excellent roads to get to them. At this point we have narrowed our search down to two cities: Santa Marta on the Caribbean coast, and Cali, the third largest city in Colombia. Please pray for us, we will have our next meeting Saturday August 30th to decide the city. This is a project that we plan to develop in 2010 and knowing the city now will help all of us pray more specifically and plan more strategically.

TEACHING MINISTRY



I am back to school again! Praise God for this new school year full of wonderful opportunities to serve. This year I am the head teacher for pre-kinder! Yes, it has been challenging but also rewarding. Please pray that the Lord guides me and strengthens me all year long. – Karina

GIRLS



The girls' summer was very fun! Daniela turned eight in July and was very blessed by her family. Both girls had the incredible opportunity to share lots of time with the group that came for the basketball camp. We had two families from the States here with children, so it was very exciting to have other kids to play with and translate to.

POTS PANS & BEYOND



The cultural fact in this prayer letter is the mobile **pots pans and beyond** in Bogota, Colombia. You can find any pot or pan that you can think of. The best is that it comes to your front door. You don't have to go anywhere and try to find a parking spot. 100 % satisfaction guaranteed. You can return your item if you find the car again!

Please pray for:

- Spiritual fruit in our discipleships
- The CPC Ministry
- Jose's studies at Moody
- Karina's ministry at El Camino Academy
- Z group decision
- A new pastor for the church in Chia
- Our family

