

# Colombia, South America

## A LAND OF CONTRASTS

December 2010

THE BOGOTA BULLETIN

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### Prayer Requests:

- God's grace & strength in our new environment
- Cultural keys to unlock the hearts of the Colombians
- Transitions—currently living in seminary upstairs... will be renting missionaries' home in 2 weeks
- Shipped luggage to arrive safe, sound & hassle-free

### PRAISES

- We arrived safely in Bogota
- Have already had several opportunities to share the gospel
- Eliana is learning to be flexible with time schedule, etc.
- We have a great team of missionaries that have done so much to help us get settled.

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We left the states on January 6th. I know this is the December newsletter, but surely you will forgive me for including a few of the events of the past week and a half. We said tearful goodbyes to all our family members and lots of friends and church family. It is hard to think that when we return, Eliana will be 3 years old!

We arrived in Bogota late Thursday evening. Again, having a little baby in a Latin culture can be very advantageous. We were escorted around 300-some passengers right up to a counter for customs. It took us hardly 15 minutes to get our visas stamped, get our bags and exit the airport! We were greeted by some of the missionaries on our "team" here in Bogota. We have spent some time with them over the past few days as they have shown us around the city. We have a lot of things to



Thank you all for praying for our visa process! Because we needed to get that done in Atlanta, we "had" to come home during the Christmas holidays! Thankfully, as you already know, our visa process took us one hour! We were able to enjoy the rest of the holidays with family. It was wonderful to spend time with family and friends. Eliana enjoyed seeing her great-grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins for the first

learn here. It can be an overwhelming thought to think of all the new things we have to learn like cooking at a 9000 ft. altitude, shopping in markets and new stores with different foods, finding doctors, getting documents and paperwork done, learning how to drive in a place where the road and traffic laws are different but you're responsible for them even if the road isn't marked, and just life in general. Pray that God will give us grace and strength as we learn all these things.

Also pray that we will be able to find the cultural keys to unlock the hearts of these people so that we may develop relationships that lead to friendships, opportunities to share the gospel and ultimately, discipleship.

For the past two years you all have sustained us with your prayers throughout the pre-field process and language school. But that was just the beginning. Now more than ever we need your prayers, your encouragement and your support. Thank you so much for taking part in what God is doing here in Colombia!



### WE HAVE A BLOG!

Be sure to check our blog! I have started chronicling the events of our new life here in Bogota with the hopes of sharing some of those everyday details with those of you who are interested. Keep up with our latest news and help us through our everyday struggles with your prayers. You can find our blog on our website:

[www.prayformee.com](http://www.prayformee.com)

Feel free to leave comments or email us with any questions, advice, encouragement, etc.

P.S. The blog says that it is "by Dan" but it's actually by Jen. :-)

## Home for Christmas

time! She loved seeing her grandparents again also. We spent a lot of the time packing and preparing for Colombia. We are shipping some bins of our household necessities to Bogota. We would appreciate your prayers that everything arrives safely and without too much hassle. The biggest hurdle will be to get it all through customs... we're thinking we might take Eliana to help speed up the process like it did with the visas!

In short, the month of December included: graduation from language school on December 10th, flight to the U.S. on December 10th, application and receipt of visas for Colombia on December 13th, time spent with family in South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee, meeting with our "boss" Jonny Bolin on December 28th, packing up all our earthly belongings in our spare time, and a few snow days as well! It was a great time!