

How we're really doing... Family Life Update

Jake and Lauren Jones via mail204.atl81.rsgsv.net

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Keeping up with the Joneses...

Friends and Family...

So much life has transpired since we last wrote. The fullness of family life, ministry, traveling (for work), recurrent illness, doctor's appointments, trainings, school, and the day to day keep us super busy!! I sit down to write and there's just so much, I often don't know where to begin. So, I'm going to briefly update you on how each of our kids are doing and how you can be praying for them. I'll include ways you can pray for Jake and I, as well as urgent ministry prayer requests. Thanks so much for being faithful to praying for us, sacrificing financially to support our family and our ministry, The Wájaro Foundation.

Thanks for loving us and believing in the work God has given us to do in Colombia!



Judah (08.06.2007-15 years. old) :
We continue to praise God for the gift of Judah's life and for his growing faith.

He's playing guitar, piano
and basketball.

Please pray for Judah. He is in his second to last year of Colombian school. Big life decisions about college are on the horizon. We need the Lord's wisdom and guidance. Praying about gap years and which country to study in and how God wants to use Judah's gifts for his future! We are also working with a pediatric neurologist to navigate a chronic tic disorder Judah has had since he was little, but has progressed as he has gotten older. Please pray for peace for his body and for him as he manages stress that trigger his tics.



Naomi (11.12.2008-14 years old):

Naomi just began 8th grade in February. We are thankful for how we see God pursuing Naomi and how he has uniquely gifted her. Naomi continues to play piano and sing and started playing basketball this year.

Please pray for Naomi to find close friends that encourage her in her walk with the Lord and for her personal faith journey. Pray as we navigate her natural desire for more freedom in a big city where needing to be "overprotective" is a part of life. Pray for protection over her. Please pray for God's love to capture her heart and for Naomi to steward the gifts God has given her well.



Emanuela (9.4.2011-11 years old):
Ema just entered sixth grade. We are grateful for how we see the Lord at work in her life. Ema is flourishing at school and has matured in so many ways.

Please pray for her as she wrestles with fear and anxiety. Some of the hard things we've faced as a family over the years have had an obvious impact on her sensitive spirit. We are asking the Lord to free her from fear and for spiritual growth. May she be ever more confident in who she is in Christ!



Elias (12.21.2015-7 years old)
Eli turned 7 right before Christmas! His energy for life is hardly contained in his little body! After a tough transition from Covid schooling, Eli worked hard to catch up with his Spanish speaking peers and is having an excellent start to second grade! He has lots of friends and has fallen in love with learning!

Thank you Jesus.

Please pray for Eli's faith to grow and for Spanish fluency! Also, please pray that we find answers and healing for the recurring fevers Eli has experienced since last May. We are very grateful that he is now under the care of a wonderful Infectious Disease doctor who is committed to helping us figure it out.



Jake and I have so much to be thankful for, and also a lot on our plates.

Pray for us as we parent our kids, as we lead the Wájaro Foundation, as we make decisions about ministry and family, as we travel for work, and as we steward the resources and gifts God's given us. In June, we will celebrate our 19th anniversary! Pray that we can find time for dates and investing in our marriage as well as our family. Most importantly, please pray that in the midst of it all, that we remember our first love every day, in all we do.

MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Please pray for Jake and I to have wisdom in decision making about when to travel to the States.** We have only been back twice as a whole family since 2015. We are wrestling with the timing, the cost, and how to prioritize our time. We all desperately need rest. We all really long to have quality time with friends and family. But Jake and I very much feel the pull to work and fundraise and visit churches when we're home, as well as the burden of leaving our work in Colombia. It's complex. Please pray that God will guide this decision, he will provide the financial resources to make it happen, and that it will cause the least impact on our kids' schooling and Wájaro. If we need to come home twice, once to focus on rest and then another time for work, God would have to make that really clear and provide in an abundant way. We need to decide soon, and begin making this plans. Please pray!
- **Please pray for the Wájaro Foundation.** We rejoice in the purchase of Casa Wájaro, but with it, comes a lot of added responsibility at a time when Jake and I are feeling overwhelmed with balancing our workloads and family life. We have a small but mighty team in Bogotá and excellent Indigenous leaders in the communities, for which we are so grateful, but please pray for all of us. It takes a lot of physical, emotional and spiritual energy to move mountains in Colombia.
- **Please also pray that we can diversify our funding for the Wájaro Foundation** this year. It is extremely difficult for Jake and I to both fundraise for our personal support as well as to sustain all the amazing,

life-giving projects of our ministry. We know that in God's Kingdom, there is more than enough; we've just got to find it! Fundraising for Wájaro is an ongoing, ever-present, sometimes all-consuming burden. Pray that we can balance walking in faith for God's timing and provision, while also being faithful to knock on every door out there. Pray specifically for God to provide the resources for both Casa Wájaro and projects in communities. Pray for churches to support projects and new monthly donors for Wájaro.

- **Please pray for all the communities and projects we have underway** with the Wayuu, Misak, Nasa, Wiwa, Waonan, Embera and potentially new communities as God provides the resources for us to do so.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT UPDATE:

Our family is so thankful for the outpouring of financial support we have received over the last year. When we asked God to make a way for us financially, we were blown away by **your** generosity. **We are closer than ever to being 100% funded! Woohoo!!**

We received many generous one time gifts. We also received several new monthly supporters, for which we are so grateful. **We only need approximately \$500 in recurrent monthly support to reach 100% of our goal to continue serving here in Colombia! THANK YOU!!**

Become a monthly supporter.

👉👉 IMPORTANT REMINDER👉👉

Jake and I serve as full-time missionaries through **South America Mission**. Jake and I are also co-founders of **The Wájaro Foundation**, a Colombian NGO (www.wajaro.org), that receives donations from all over the world to support the work we do in Indigenous communities throughout Colombia. Please remember that when you hear from The Wájaro Foundation, you're hearing from us! **We consider Wájaro's newsletters a strategic part of how we correspond to you!**

Thank you for taking the time to read! Lots of love...

Lauren, Jake, Judah, Naomi, Ema & Eli



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