



### **Stronger Together**

There is no greater blessing than to see God's people work together, using their gifts and abilities in a strong teamwork setting. This has been our greatest joy to witness and be part of in this season of ministry in the church plant. These last few months have been an incredible experience seeing the power of God working through His people. This update will reflect on the team component and how God has been strengthening the church through partnerships both here in the church in Colombia and beautiful teamwork from churches Stateside.

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### **Pastoral Teamwork**

As we mentioned in our previous letter, Federico, who is in the process to become the lead pastor, and Juan have been working hand in hand in the pastoral care of the church. The way they have been flourishing in their teamwork has been sharing responsibility in overseeing various ministries. One of the biggest areas of need that Juan has been meeting in this season is training a leadership team to minister and serve the teens of the church. Juan meets with these leaders once a week to train them and walk with them in their process of leading the youth ministry.



Another beautiful way in which the pastoral team is stronger together is that Fede, Juan, Harold, and David (future elders) have divided the men's ministry into discipleship groups and each of them have four to five men in which they meet with every week for discipleship. They are calling this new men's ministry "El Reto" which means "The Challenge". The men are all reading a book together to discuss in their discipleship groups and then come together for a large men's meeting every other month. Talk about the power of teamwork!!



One of the most important relationships that we have been investing in is the relationships of the future pastors and wives of the church. Juan and I led a beautiful activity to deepen our relationships with them a few weeks ago that included a lot laughs and deepened understanding of how God worked in their lives to bring them to this point in their relationship with the Lord and ministry calling.





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**Xtreme Life Teamwork**

One of the exciting new ministry initiatives Juan and I are starting this year is a series of workshops and teachings called Padres en la Palabra (Parents in the Word). These parenting workshops are scheduled every other month and are biblical teachings to guide families to have a spiritually healthy family life and biblical parenting. We will be having workshops such as:

August - Pastoring the Heart of your Child,

October - How to Cultivate Spiritual Disciplines within the Home

November - Parents who Pray

January - Setting Biblical Boundaries in the Home

February - Pastoring the Mind of your Child

This past weekend we launched our first workshop with Carlos and Yaneth teaching on the process of Shepherding the Heart of your Teenager. What a powerful and beautiful launch to the series Padres in the Palabra!







The unique and special aspect to this series of workshops is the teamwork aspect. While the parents are receiving the Word and deepening their relationships with one another as parents, so are the children! We had some leaders from Xtreme Life working with the teens, and other Xtreme Life leaders working with the younger children. What an incredible picture of how ministries and the church are stronger when working together.









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### **Stateside Teamwork**

Last month we had a beautiful event at church called Hermosos Pies (Beautiful Feet). One of our supporters and family members started a beautiful ministry to bless churches and families in need by raising funds for groceries and new shoes for the children of the churches they visit. They chose to visit and bless our church plant this year. Through this event we were able to present the gospel to 45 brand new families who have never been to church before. A few of these families have now been faithfully attending church and growing in their walk with the Lord. It was so touching to see the church serve these children by washing their feet, praying for them and their families, and ministering to each and every family by giving Bibles and groceries.















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### **Big Family Changes**

Since returning to Colombia our children have had a difficult time transitioning back. The children at church are years older than ours or years younger, it has been very difficult for Emma and Megan to connect on a deep meaningful level with people. Through months of prayer we sense the Lord leading us to take a two year break of homeschooling. The girls who have prayed along with us in this decision are excited to start a new transition in August attending a private school about 15 minutes away. They have spent a three day trial at this school about a month ago and instantly connected with the teachers and students. This school is unique in the sense that it is on a farm, in a log cabin built into the mountains, with

tons of animals and gardens which part of their day is caring for them. After this three day trial period the girls even adopted two baby sister bunnies from the school and we have become a family of six girls, poor Juan!!



With the high demands of ministry and the growing discipleship and counseling needs at church, Melissa has had a stir in her heart to pursue her masters degree to better equip herself to meet these needs. She applied at Moody Theological Seminary and was accepted into the Masters of Biblical Spiritual Formation and Discipleship program. She also received a 2/3 grant with the partnership that Avant and Moody have with one another. Praise the Lord we are only responsible for 1/3 of the cost of her entire masters program. Please pray about this transition for our family. The additional costs of the girls school, with Juan still finishing his Masters in Divinity at Southwestern Theological Seminary, and now Melissa entering Moody Theological Seminary we will be needing to pray for additional monthly support. If you are moved to partner with us and support our growing ministry preparation needs please follow the link. Our missions account is 88575. Thank you for your faithful support, prayers, and constant partnership with us and our ministry. We are eternally grateful!

Your Missionaries,



## The Santafe Family

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