



An invitation

We're going to Colombia! And we are so grateful to you, our friends and our family, for sharing in this journey with us. This is the first of many newsletters that we will be writing over the months and years to come, and our prayer is that they would serve as a connection that can bridge the distance between us, and bring our worlds closer together. We will do our best to be consistent, authentic, and engaging in our writing while we invite you to pray, encourage, and communicate as you journey with us.

Snapshot:

Last Sunday pastoring in Tampa: May 20th

Next Step: Moving in with Thad's parents in Baltimore

Time till Colombia: Probably about 15 months.

Latest win: We got our first church partnership date scheduled -
Cristo La Senda (Brandon, FL) - Aug 19th

The Backstory

So let's turn back the clock to 1999. As Nikki turned 14 years old she was beginning to fall in love in two exciting ways which would end up shaping both of our lives forever: first, she began to feel very fond of a certain high school senior named Thad Roller, and second, she began to feel a tug on her heart to spend her life in overseas ministry. In time, the object of Nikki's fondness began to share her feelings on both fronts and 6 years later, we stood at an altar and joyfully exchanged vows! That day our hearts were not only full of love, but of deep conviction that we would one day be invested in international ministry together.

Since then a lot has happened (twelve anniversaries, two daughters, two masters degrees, and 11 years pastoring, for starters) but our sense of passion for God's purposes of global redemption has only sharpened with time. And now God is leading us to boldly step out into His service as Free Methodist missionaries to the people of Colombia - a country wide open to receive the Good News.

We know that the journey ahead will involve everything from fundraising, to language-learning, to navigating a new culture. We know that it will stretch our family spiritually and challenge us mentally. We understand that it will require faith, perseverance, and hard work. It will mean being further away from family, friends, and the churches we've grown to love. And we know that ultimately it will be fruitless without the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

We know all this and yet we celebrate because, for us, there is no higher, more invigorating calling than joining the ranks of women and men called "missionaries" - those intrepid heralds of Hope who have been privileged to carry out Jesus' commissioning to "all nations".



The big thing for us right now is finishing well in Tampa. On a personal level this involves everything from packing, to selling things, to saying goodbye, and more. But there's also a ministry side where we especially ask for your prayers. Both congregations we currently serve are still in the midst of pastoral search processes. Pray for wisdom for our Superintendent, Bishop, and local leaders--that the Lord would provide and lead in a clear way.