

# Make yourself at HOME

Dear FMWM,

Language is a funny thing - especially the Spanish language. What means one thing in one country means something totally different in another. "Amañado" is one of those words. It can mean manipulated or tricked in many places...but in Colombia it means "settled, comfortable, at home." When you come to Colombia, everyone, from taxi drivers to friends, makes it their mission to make sure you are "amañado" here! (Well, in my case, it's amañada because I'm a woman...but we'll leave that lesson for another day.)

I am happy to say that we are indeed amañados (plural) here...in Colombia and finally in our new apartment! We moved in on July 4 and while construction goes on in the building around us (in fact they are just installing the front door today), our apartment is 98% finished. We are comfortable, grateful, and very much at home here. In fact, we were kinda surprised by how quickly it felt like home. **Thank you for your prayers and assistance to make this a reality!** (Of course, we're triply thankful to be amañados here because it is home, office and school - three in one!)



## The Unwelcome Guest

Unfortunately, it seems that the Coronavirus is also amañado here...and throughout the world. Medellin is re-implementing strict quarantines 3 days per week this month to see if that helps stem the rising tide of cases that are filling up intensive care units... and this is a recurring theme throughout the region.

Quarantines and the uncertainty of the ongoing coronavirus are taking their emotional tolls on our leaders as well. **We invite your prayers for the Latin American Area as a whole in this difficult time.** Yet, in the midst of all of this, we are encouraged by the response of the Free Methodist Church. We thought you might enjoy this video report. Watch for the exciting update at the



2 minute mark and **praise God for the opportunity to participate in the expansion of His Kingdom!**

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## Settling Into a Heavenly Dwelling

We were saddened by the news of Pastor Cristobal Preciado's death this past Friday, July 17. However, based on his good testimony, we rejoice that he is amañado in Heaven. Pastor Cristobal was the pastor of three churches in the impoverished city of Esmeraldas, Ecuador. Ricardo received him as a Conference Ministerial Candidate during the Virtual Annual Meeting last month. JR Crouse, missionary to Ecuador, said Pastor Cristobal, "was a humble fisherman by trade and although he did not have much formal education, he loved to study God's word and to lead vibrant worship. I'll always be amazed at his quiet strength and fortitude as he endured hard conditions for the cause of Christ." **Please pray for Pastor Cristobal's family, the three churches he pastored, the Mission District Leader and also pray for Pastor Wilson Vargas as he takes over leadership responsibilities.**



I think we will all be completely "amañado" when we get to heaven. Then and only then will the worries and cares and pain of this world subside. In the meantime, we are thankful that God gives us places of refuge in the midst of the craziness of this world. (Here we are in our awesome neighborhood park...sporting matching facemarks of course.)



Please let us know if you are coming to Medellín for any reason (once the travel restrictions are lifted) and we will do our best to help you feel amañado/amañada too. You are always welcome!

Blessings,  
Ricardo, Beth, Juliana & Jonathan Gómez



