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Dr. Charles Blackstock, Pastor www.lighthouse-baptist.com (706) 265-9868



Dear Praying Friends & Family,

We just finished up Thanksgiving here in Colombia. It's just another day for most folks, but it causes us to remember that we truly have much for which to be thankful! Besides the turkey, mashed potatoes and pumpkin cheesecake we were able to enjoy (thanks to my mother-in-law!), we are sincerely thankful to God for everything around us. His blessings are plenteous, and his grace is abundant!

THANKFUL FOR OUR NEWEST BABY GIRL

We are pleased to introduce you to Alethea Jewel Vance, born November 16, 2017. Aubrie and the baby are doing great, and we are all adjusting to having a household of 4 daughters! Alethea is Greek for truth, and Jewel is Latin for Joy. We pray she can be a beacon of truth and a conduit of joy to the world around her!

THANKFUL FOR OUR UPCOMING FURLOUGH

Our tickets have been purchased and we are starting to fill up our calendar for our furlough from the first week of February until the end of December 2018. Our goals are five-fold: (1) To give a report to our supporting churches of the work God has done; (2) To raise urgent financial and prayer support for the growing ministry; (3) to visit with extended family; (4) to raise awareness for world missions; (5) to give an opportunity to our leaders and churches in Colombia to exercise their gifts and calling.

We are praying to add 20 supporters to our team. If you haven't yet begun partnering with us to reach Colombia, would you prayerfully consider us in your monthly missions budget? If you would like to schedule a meeting with us, or just need more info, email us at aaronlvance@gmail.com. Also, please see the included recommendation letter from our sending church pastor, Dr. Charles Blackstock.



Both of our churches have been growing stronger each month. We recently met with 30 of our church leaders to plan out the 2018 calendar while we're gone. I look forward to hearing how God continues to use the church to reach our community. The need is great, and the doors are wide open to get the Gospel to the people! We are already planning to starting at least 3 more churches by the year 2020, Lord willing. Several of our men have taken great steps toward leading the two established churches while we are away next year, which also serves as preparation toward starting their own churches.

THANKFUL FOR CHRISTMAS IN COLOMBIA

Our entire city transforms every year at Christmas. Extravagant lights, fireworks shows, elaborate nativity scenes and a festive environment makes this time of year a lot of fun. However, most people see Christmas just as an excuse to party, have time off of work and relax. Though it would seem on the surface that Christ is more prevalent in Christmas here, most people still do not know him. They haven't heard the true Gospel, of salvation that isn't earned through religion or works, rather by grace through faith in Christ's finished work. In other words, many here "have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" (Rom. 10:2). Christmas is a great time to share the Gospel, both here in Colombia as well as wherever you live and minister. Let's not hide the hope we have!

THANKFUL FOR OUR PRAYER WARRIORS

We appreciate all of you and your prayers for our family and ministry. Truly, God is working in spite of us, and I believe the prayers of His saints have had a great impact. Don't stop! In fact, here are some specific requests you can lift up to God on our behalf:

- Pray for Alethea, and all the paperwork left to do for her to be a dual citizen and be able to travel.
- Pray for our furlough travels coming up January 31st, as well as the meetings we will have next year.
- Pray for the men and women who are leading the various ministries in our churches, both now and while we are gone. Especially pray for the men who will be preaching the Word.
- Pray for more missionaries in Colombia. Never has there been a time in which people were more receptive to the truth of the Gospel, yet there is a need for more full-time Gospel-preaching laborers.











With Love & Prayers from Colombia, Aaron & Aubrie Vance Amira • Anabel • Aris • Alethea



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Charles & Debbie Blackstock

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Dr. Charles Blackstock Senior Pastor 706.265.9868 www.lighthouse-baptist.com November 2017

To Those Considering Missionary Aaron Vance,

Six years ago I wrote a recommendation letter for Aaron Vance, missionary to Colombia, South Ameria. I wrote about his dedication to the training he received under my mentorship and how he was well prepared for the field. He had preached over 100 times, won and discipled converts, and served on my staff. Bro. Vance was fluent in the Spanish language and started our Spanish Church and then developed a leader to become the pastor before he left for the mission field. In the letter, I highly recommended the Vance family and predicted their success on the field.

Now, I'm writing about a family that has been on the field for a full four year term. As I suggested, they have been greatly used of God. I have been to the field twice to see the work during this term. It is truly amazing what God has done. Bro. Aaron immediately started a church and within a few months it had outgrown the building they were meeting in. With a new and larger space they continued to grow, having 100-150 people in attendance each Sunday morning. Bro. Vance started a Bible Institute which quickly grew to over two dozen students training for ministry each week. The thrill of my second trip to Bucaramanga was to spend time with these students. Their desire to learn and be used of God made my heart rejoice. He took some of these students and went to another location and started a second church.

As I write this letter, the Vances are about to take a furlough and come to the States to visit supporting churches. They return having established two strong churches which are growing and winning souls. He has men training for the ministry on a weekly basis. He has strong pastoral leadership in both churches. In other words, by the grace of God, they have gotten the job done.

It is difficult for a preacher to speak openly about what he has accomplished for fear of seeming proud or arrogant. That is why I want to speak on his behalf. I also want to again highly recommend them for support. Heaven will prove an investment in Aaron Vance to be a wise decision. God will no doubt add fruit to your account for helping this man of God get more done.

Colombia is a country hungry for the truth. Furthermore, unlike many other places around the world where there is great difficulty to get into the country and openly minister, in Colombia there exists great freedom to preach and build churches. With the financial and prayer support of more churches, I know Bro. Vance will be able to do much more for the kingdom of our God. Colombia is a key country in South America. Establishing strong churches and a Bible college will be crucial to reaching the Spanish speaking people of that region.

I hope you will seriously consider partnering with the Vances for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Charles of Blackstock or

Dr. Charles J. Blackstock, Jr.