



Andrew and Amy Fields – Colombia

A glimpse at what your support made possible:

One of the most significant points of impact for our ministry in 2022 was the launching of a new master's program at the Biblical Seminary of Colombia. For many years, the Biblical Seminary of Colombia has worked towards expanding our programs to help students go deeper into Scripture. Since we arrived in Colombia, Andrew has been involved in those efforts to open a master's program and, in February of 2022, we welcomed our first cohort of students in the Master's in Biblical Interpretation program.

In our November update, we shared the story of one of those students, [Juan Carlos](#). Juan Carlos was working as an architect and attempting to witness Christ in his workplace. God opened his heart to colleagues who had success in business, but their personal lives were hollow. However, when he would talk with them about Christ, the gospel, or the Bible, these educated professionals would have questions or concerns that Juan Carlos was not able to respond to. This led him to begin studies at the seminary, with a call to help equip other believers to witness in the workplace. The high-quality studies in Bible and theology in our undergraduate program prepared him to jump into the new master's program when it opened in February. This new program equips him with tools to dig deeper into the original languages and cultural contexts of Scripture, as well as understand how Scripture speaks today in the Colombian workplace. He is already applying what he has learned in counseling and small group ministry at his church, and he hopes to use what he learns in this program to help Colombian Christians bear witness to Christ in their vocations and workplaces.

The impact made by the master's program on our institution, students like Juan Carlos, and the Church would not be possible without your generous giving to this ministry. Juan Carlos and other students at the seminary have benefited from scholarships made possible by generous giving of individuals and churches through RCA Global Mission. In addition, through the sacrificial giving of congregations and families in the U.S., Andrew can serve in the leadership of the seminary as Academic Dean, Field Education Coordinator, and professor of theology. Thank you for being a blessing to Juan Carlos, the seminary, and the Church around Latin America.



Juan Carlos and his family, Andrew teaching, and graduation.

Our challenges of 2022

Our main challenge this past year has been economic. Colombia has not been immune to the global economic uncertainty and post-COVID challenges. Those struggles have hit the middle and lower classes that make up the bulk of evangelical churches in Colombia. This has meant many students struggle to have the funds for studies and either must postpone a semester or take fewer courses. It also means that many people who want to study at the seminary must put off that dream because of a lack of resources in their families or churches. This has meant lower enrollment in our residential program and has forced us to be creative stewards of the resources (both financial and human) that God has provided.

Our family has also experienced this challenge. As many churches adjust to the post-COVID reality of ministry in North America, they are reevaluating their budgets. In some cases, this has meant making cuts in financial support for our ministry. Even though generous one-time gifts have allowed us to meet our annual budget, we need more financial commitment to provide sustainable annual funding for our ministry.



Left: Andrew's Theology II class got to come to our house for their lesson on Communion. They made biscuits as Andrew led a lively discussion on the Lord's Supper.

Please pray

- **First, we pray for God's abundant provision of funds for the seminary and our ministry.** Please pray that God would provide employment for our students and their families, generous giving from Colombian churches, and scholarships that would allow them to follow God's call to equip themselves for ministry. Also, pray for families and congregations that can commit to regular giving to support our family's ministry with the seminary.
- **Second, we pray for wisdom for the next steps as a family.** In particular, Andrew has long felt the need and desire to continue his education with a Ph.D. in theology. We hope that more advanced studies will deepen and expand the ways Andrew can contribute to the formation of ministry leaders in Latin America. However, we need the wisdom to discern all of the when, where, and how of Ph.D. studies. Please join us in seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance on this subject.

Thank you,
Andrew and Amy