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Dear friends and family,

It is now just over one month since we moved from The Netherlands to Colombia. We are aware that a number of you include us in your prayers and are wondering how this new adventure is unfolding. Last August we shared three uncertainties:



(a) **Visa:** after the initial rejection, one week before traveling Philip received a 3 year visa. Anneke entered Colombia as a tourist (no visa is needed for 90 days). With the visa, Philip has applied for and received a national ID card, which was necessary in order to apply for a Colombian driving licence and open a local bank account (needed for paying the rent, services, etc). We are thankful! We are currently applying for Anneke's visa, and it has not been so straight forward as expected. As is usual with paperwork, we need patience and perseverance!



(b) **PSA values:** The morning I phoned the hospital in Eindhoven to make the appointment with the Urology specialist, someone had cancelled their appointment. This made it possible to see the specialist before leaving The Netherlands. We were encouraged by seeing Gods had in this detail. The specialist had a few more tests made. My PSA value had halved. That was good news. I was given some tablets and told to come back within 12 or 14 months. We are thankful!



(c) **Flat rental:** after our failure to rent a home in our own name, two Colombian brothers kindly rented a new empty flat for us. After 2 weeks in a furnished AirB&B flat, we could move in to our more permanent home. The first 2 weeks we were busy with the furnishing of the flat, purchasing beds, sheets, chairs, plates, saucepans, fans, fridge, table, printer, etc. We felt like a newly married couple setting up home for the first time! We are now trying to get used to the varied sounds of birds, machines and alarms (!) during day and night here. For this new home we are also thankful! We love the mountain view from our living room balcony! Living on a 13th floor does have advantages.



Ibagué: We have been well received here by the brothers and sisters in this small assembly. The first Sunday afternoon we were here, they had organized a 'family meal and talent show'. It was very encouraging to see the local creativity! We are now trying to visit one by one all the families and singles that form part of the assembly, to listen to their stories and get to know them better. We enjoy these visits.



Puerto Boyacá: Last weekend we attended the annual regional conference in Puerto Boyacá. Philip helped with 2 of the 10 studies. It was good to renew some old contacts and meet many new people, especially those from the valley of the Magdalena river. Those in the kitchen prepared 400 meals 3

times a day for 2 days... in hot temperatures! It was a happy and encouraging event. There are many needs in the region.



Family life: We have also had the opportunity to have a short holiday with our daughter Vikki and 3 of her children (sadly Steven and Ollie had to stay in Bogotá due to health issues). During our first week in Ibagué, Philip tripped on a sidewalk and fell with his side against a metal bar. We think he bruised or cracked a rib. It was painful. Thankfully it is slowly getting better.



Pereira: Within two weeks we plan to spend 10 days

in Pereira, helping with the FEB training programme and participating in two national meetings. We are doing a lot of looking, asking and listening... also asking the Lord to make clear to us where He would have us focus our time and energy. We are convinced that in time He will make this clear to us and open the right doors. This is a special phase!

Our next news-letter will probably be early next year, once we have settled a little more into life in Colombia. Our current plan is to write two informative letters per year, unless something exceptional happens. Our thanks too to those of you who regularly pray for us and support us in one way or another.

- Philip & Anneke