

# The box chronicles

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

*“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” Isa. 43:19*

This scripture has taken on a very personal meaning for us in these last couple months. Our God certainly is the God of doing beyond what we can even imagine or think. Nothing surprises the Sovereign Lord of Creation, but much catches us totally by surprise and that is the greatness of being one of His children! Anyone who even considers that the Christian life is boring surely does not know our God!

We arrived in Colombia thinking we were going to aid the Colombian church planters and pastors in theological training and generally give leadership and direction for our team members that we believed by faith God was going to bring us. Shortly after arriving, Rick was asked by a dear friend if he would consider interiming at the United Church of Bogota for the summer, until another “interim” returned from vacation. Since we weren’t completely settled at that point and not overly committed, Rick agreed to help out. After a short 6 week interim, the church leaders asked Rick if he would consider staying on. WOW! We were taken aback, but considered the offer and after much prayer and dialogue with our Latin American director, decided to agree to it providing that the church would change from a board run government to elders and deacons and agree to partner officially with the Mission to the World Colombian ministry. We are excited about the many opportunities to share the Scriptures from a reformed perspective to hungry hearts. And, we are looking forward to planting a Spanish speaking congregation in the United Church building with one of our Colombian church planters. At this point, the possibilities seem endless! About one third of the English speaking congregation are embassy personnel, military and multi-national employees who are here for a term of two to four years and will then leave to go out to another part of the world. So, here we sit in Bogota, Colombia with the ability to impact the entire world! Probably one half of the congregation are Colombians who have either spent years in English speaking countries or are married to English speaking spouses and therefore are third culture Colombians and find themselves, like us, strangely at home here, but yet strangely as pilgrims in their own country.

As a result, you can imagine how busy we have been between the United Church and the Colombian churches! Sometimes, it feels like I am on a roller coaster: totally exhilarating, but exhausting as well. It probably is a good thing that I don’t have much time to think about how much I wish I could be with my girls over the holidays. This will be the first Thanksgiving and Christmas that Rick and I will be without at least some of them. This will be yet another lesson of God’s grace being sufficient in all circumstances. How thankful I am that our love is deep enough that it causes us intense pain to be apart from each other! And how sweet eternity becomes! How wonderful, this Jesus of ours, who has made us His own, who has gone before us showing us how to die to ourselves so that we may truly live! My prayer is that you will celebrate Him as you give thanks this year. And that you will enjoy for us the roast turkey, moist stuffing, pumpkin pie and cranberry sauce in the presence of your families.

Thankful for fellow travelers,  
Pam