



GREETINGS FROM CHATTANOOGA, TN

We are so grateful for all the prayers of those who followed us via social media (Facebook) through our departure from Venezuela. It has been quite some time since we have been able to communicate through prayer letter because of both the internet situation as well as the electricity situation. While we were still there, I had to be very careful how we communicated as to not draw any attention to us or say anything that might flag the interest of someone who was a chavista. Although we were never personally threatened, rumblings in the street showed us that things were taking a turn and it was time to leave. Our departure was nothing short of miraculous. Even our departure has served many in Venezuela as a testimony of God's faithfulness in the midst of uncertain times. About a week before we left, the whole country had a 5 day blackout. The only places that had light were the presidential palace and the people who had electric generators. It was definitely a faith strengthening time because as it was happening, we had no idea how long the blackout would last. God was good and even our frozen meat and vegetables were able to be used up until the last day. It was during the next week we saw that the U.S. Embassy was making a complete evacuation of Venezuela. We had seen the embassy evacuate non-essential personnel in the past, but this was the first time that they evacuated everyone and the decision was unanimous that we leave the country. Since our departure blackouts have become the norm. Please pray for the people there. We struggled with our emotions leaving. Thankfully, the church we left had a national pastor, and God continues to do a great work, but our hearts are still there! Please pray that we will soon see the fall of the dictator in order to return again next year after our furlough.

FINANCIAL NEEDS

We have two pending financial needs to share. The first is small. We still lack \$1,500 to completely pay off our trip home. Our mission board graciously purchased our tickets home. We have had some donations come in to help with our passage. We are still \$1,500 short of the needed funds. If God lays it upon your heart to be a part of this, you can donate the funds through our mission board and the donations are tax deductible. I will provide the address and website at the end of this letter.

The second financial need is for the church we left in Venezuela. They need \$10,000 by the end of June 2019 to be able to purchase the house where they are meeting as a church building. This is very common in Venezuela. Similar homes in the area have raised their prices due to the hyperinflation in the country, but the owner is a believer and she had graciously maintained her price until June. We are asking that you ask if and how much God would have you give to these projects. Due to space on this hard copy of the prayer letter, I do not have space to upload pictures, but in the e-version of the letter I will upload pictures of the church meeting in the home. Please ask God how He would have you be a part of these projects. As always we appreciate and are so grateful for your prayers and financial support and the work you have partnered with us to do in Venezuela.

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*please specify "passage" or "church fund"

Please Prayerfully Remember:

- Prayer for the financial needs.
- Political change in Venezuela

The Sykes

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