

— SEPTEMBER 2023 —

# Julianna IN COLOMBIA



## Colombia Update!

God has been faithful this past month as I have settled into a schedule between Medellín and Rionegro. I've had a lot of cool ministry opportunities and new experiences, and I have been learning a lot!

---





## Granizal, Medellín

I had the opportunity to join the Gifted girls in going to Granizal in Medellín. It is a poorer neighborhood up in the mountains of the city. To get there, we take the metro, the metro-cable, a bus, and then walk up a steep path to the church plant called Iglesia Cristiana Shalom. Every two weeks, the church invites youth from different soccer teams to go to the church for some games and activities in the hope of sharing the gospel with them. We helped to run the games and started building relationships with the youth there! We will be continuing to go every two weeks until the end of November.

---





## Ministry with the Gifted

During the week, I have been continuing to teach English to the Gifted group in Medellín. I've been teaching on the Spiritual Disciplines, and the girls have been growing a lot in them! They are excited to tell me each week what they have read, which is awesome to hear. They have also been improving in their English as we do grammar lessons each Thursday. One of the girls who couldn't form a sentence a couple months ago can now talk about what she did last week!

About a month ago, we had the opportunity to go out evangelizing in pairs close to the church. We got to have some really good conversations! Even though they were nervous to go, they ended up loving it afterwards. I hope to be able to do this a few more times with them before the semester ends!

It has been really cool to just spend time with them throughout the week as well, and to get to know them more individually. We went to the book festival together, have gone to the movies, watch a lot of movies in the church, and this week we had a Karaoke and pizza party as a reward for memorizing Scripture!



Friday devotional group



Going out for dinner in Rionegro



## Life in Rionegro

I am currently staying in an apartment in Rionegro (San Antonio) on the weekends. On Friday nights I have a small group in the apartment with some young adults, and we are studying through the book of James. On Saturdays, I am doing a Bible study in Spanish with a friend in the church, and after am teaching English to someone else. Saturday nights, I go to the young adults/youth group, and I've been able to connect a lot and make some good friends there, which is a big answer to prayer!

Sunday mornings I am serving in kids twice a month, and that has been challenging me to improve my Spanish and step out of my comfort zone to teach and pray in Spanish.



## Plans to Visit Canada!

Instead of visiting in December, I will now be in Canada from October 27 until November 11! I will be going to the FEB National Conference from November 6-8 while I am there. I would love to connect with you while I am there!



## Studying Missions!

A small group of us from different churches in the area are reading a mission textbook together and meeting weekly to talk about it and about missions in general. All of us are interested in missions, and it's been really cool to connect!

I am also taking Intro to Missiology at Heritage virtually this semester, to start working towards an Intercultural degree there, and to learn more about missions and apply it as I continue to serve here.





## What I've been Learning

This past month has been full of ups and downs as I continue to adjust, learn Spanish, and find a rhythm in ministry. There have been moments of frustration with Spanish or feeling inadequate, but God has been so faithful and good in the midst of those times. He has shown me grace time and time again in teaching me to depend on him and rest in him, instead of trying to do things in my own strength.

Even in my lowest moments, God still worked through me to teach, encourage and bless others, when I couldn't possibly have done it myself. I understand a lot more the depth of 2 Corinthians 12:9, "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." I am learning every day to put my confidence and trust in God, to lean on him and abide in him, in every single thing I do.



**I went to a book festival with the Gifted!**

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for opportunities and boldness to share the gospel with the people around me.
- Pray for wisdom and trust as I am taking the theology class, and serving in a lot of different ways throughout the week.
- Pray for the Gifted girls as they finish their semester in November, and as we finish our time together. That they would continue to grow in their relationship with God.

## Praise Reports

- Praise God for the connections I have made in both Medellín and Rionegro. I have been able to make some good friends, which is a huge blessing.
- Praise for a lot of progress in Spanish as I've been able to lead Bible studies, share the gospel, understand sermons, and feel a lot more connected in conversations!
- Praise for the opportunities that I have to study missions. It has been really encouraging so far!