



# MATTOCKS FAMILY MISSIONS

A LOOK INTO OUR LIVES OVERSEAS

## **OT AND NT** **OLD TRADITIONS AND NEW TRADITIONS**

**"A tradition is kept alive only by something being added to it"**

-Henry James

We all have things that we do for the holiday seasons. Starting from thanksgiving through New Years. We do things a certain way. We have this type of food for this holiday or season. Like for us we loved drinking pumpkin spice in November. Even if it came out earlier in the year we usually waited until November to get our first PSL (pumpkin spice latte). Now living over seas, PSL isn't a drink they have here. Pumpkin isn't really a thing at all in Colombia. So what do you do?? Well we packed pumpkin spice so we could make pumpkin pie, to make it feel like we were home during that season.

There are many traditions that will be hard for us to keep going, not by choice but my limitations. So when you are limited in resources you start to add new things to your tradition.

**Thanksgiving-** When we are in Colombia, all the missionaries serving meet in a city in Colombia to have Thanksgiving as a "family unit". This year was our first in Bucaramanga. It's a beautiful city in the Andes mountains. We had a Thanksgiving meal together. It was new but it felt like normal.

**Christmas-** Well, being in Colombia, there are no real Christmas trees, but they do have artificial ones. Isaiah's favorite (that was voted a big NO by the family) a Christmas Palm Tree. We outvoted him and had an artificial Christmas tree for our first year in Colombia!

**Cookie Making-** We love making Christmas cookies. We make them and share them with neighbors and friends. Making cookies this year was a bit challenging because IT IS HOT and to have your oven on to make your house twice as hot is a hard choice. The other issue we ran into was frosting melts. We still made them and we even had our neighbor's grandkids over to make some with us! It was a great time!

**Christmas Eve-** We had service at 8pm. We were invited over to our Pastor's house for Dinner afterwards. We had tamales, ribs, pernil (not smoked), smoked ham and flan all at midnight.

**Christmas Day-** No snow was on the ground, but it was just like being in the states. Kids up early, to have breakfast and open gifts.

We are excited to add new traditions to our lives as we keep the old traditions alive! Living overseas is an amazing experience !!

**ISAIAH 43:1-2**

**A LOOK INTO OUR LIVES OVERSEAS**



## **OUTREACH FIRST OF MANY OUTREACHES!**

On December 21(Heather's Birthday), we were invited to help at an Outreach in Tasajeras. This is a very small fishing village that they supply many restaurants and hotels with fish . It has become a very poverty stricken town, due to the pandemic and no tourism to this area. Over 200 children along with a parent or guardian came to the outreach. We helped with registration and passing out food. Those that attended heard the Gospel and Love of Jesus through skits, plays and singing. We passed out breakfast snacks and even sandwiches. At the end they received a Christmas present(balls, dolls, trucks, etc).

Then to finish up the day, ladies from the church came and decorated our House for Heather's birthday and they sang Happy Birthday at the church and at the event!

