

Articles:

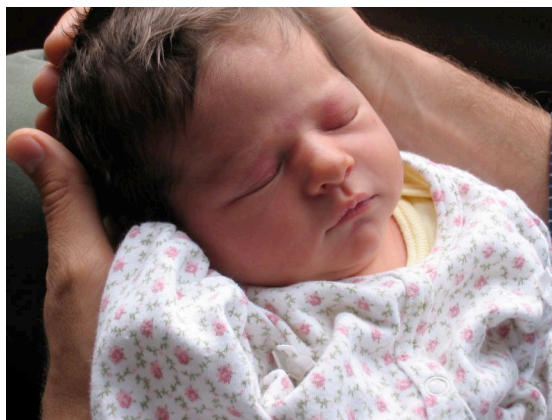
- It's a Girl! The joyful arrival of Anna Sophia Kauffman (1)
- Restorative Justice: Practicing What We Preach at School(2)
- From Drugs to Drums: A Testimony (2)

Prayer Concerns:

- Give thanks to God for the safe arrival of Anna Sophia Kauffman and for the good health of both mom and baby.
- Pray for the members of the RAD team who are coming to La Mesa for eight months of service and learning on October 29: Amy Bradshaw, Karin Esh, Stephanie Hollenberg, Melina Hunsberger, and Rachel Voran.
- Pray that the community kitchen opening at La Mesa Mennonite Church would bring health and hope to needy children and their families.
- Remember church planters Martín and Elsy González as they look for a building to meet with their growing congregation.
- Pray for teachers and students as they finish the last quarter at Colegio Americano Menno.

News from the Kauffman family in La Mesa, Colombia

It's a Girl!



Anna Sophia at four days old

Since discovering that we were expecting our second child, a big question has been "where will we have the delivery?" Our desire was to have a warm, loving, and secure environment where Aaron could be present with Laura during the labor and post-partum time. We didn't have that option in La Mesa, and so we took the recommendation from Bonnie Klassen, MCC country representative, and contacted Dr. Mauricio Espinoza Torres in Bogota.

Does God hear and answer prayers about something so simple as birth preferences, hearing our hopes and dreams for bringing a baby into the world? I can't help but feel that God's hand was leading us to one of the only obstetricians in the area who specializes in home births. His warm and friendly interest in us contrasted so starkly with the other Colombian doctors we had met in La Mesa. Early in the pregnancy we also received the invitation from Laura's second cousin, Janna and her husband, Jess, to stay in their apartment in the weeks surrounding the baby's birth. The answers to prayer kept coming.

Two weeks before the due date, we loaded up the taxi with our big suitcases and the infant car seat waiting for its little passenger, and excitedly made our way to Bogota. We spent the next week trying to relax and prepare ourselves to be a



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family of four. We enjoyed spending evenings with Janna (Jess was traveling in the States), and Abby had fun playing with friend Adrian David, Bonnie's two-year-old son.

On Sunday, September 2, we went to Teusaquillo Mennonite Church, and made the thirty-minute walk home for lunch. On and off during the afternoon

Laura felt mild painless contractions. Later that evening the contractions became more regular as we visited with neighbors. Suddenly at 8:15, a strong one hit and we knew it was serious! We walked back to the apartment, called the doctor, and Aaron lay down with Abby to get her to sleep for the night. We put on soothing music, lit candles, and called our families. The midwife, Diana, arrived at 9:40, Dr Mauricio arrived at 10:00 with his ambulance vehicle and equipment, and the nurse arrived soon after. Dr Mauricio got busy assembling the pool of warm water, Diana helped Laura find comfortable positions for the contractions, and Janna came alive in the kitchen, whipping up chicken soup and apple-cranberry crisp to feed everyone after the birth. Laura felt the low-stress environment and the freedom of walking around the apartment genuinely helped her manage the pain effectively.

At 11:00 pm, after nearly 3 hours of hard labor, Anna Sophia Kauffman was born to grateful and delighted parents. Our prayers for an uncomplicated labor and healthy baby were answered! We hardly could have imagined a better birth! Abigail slept through the entire thing, and was quite awed to meet her little sister the next morning.

More articles on page 2.

Aaron & Laura
Kauffman

Calle 5, # 14-32
La Mesa, Colombia
Tel: 011-57-1-847-2553
aaronlaurak@gmail.com

*Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and lean not
on your own
understanding; in all
your ways acknowledge
him, and he will make
your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5,6

**Our Support Team
from
Zion Mennonite Church**

Chairperson
Matthew Hunsberger

Prayer Coordinator
Mark Mast

Church Communicator
Sharon Showalter

Finance Manager
Todd Stoltzfus

Encourager
Mandi Stoltzfus

To contact, write to:

Kauffman Support Team
Zion Mennonite Church
3260 Zion Church Road
Broadway, VA 22815

kauffmansincolumbia
@gmail.com

Read more
about our ministry in
Colombia at:
kauffmanhome.net

Restorative Justice: Practicing What We Preach at School

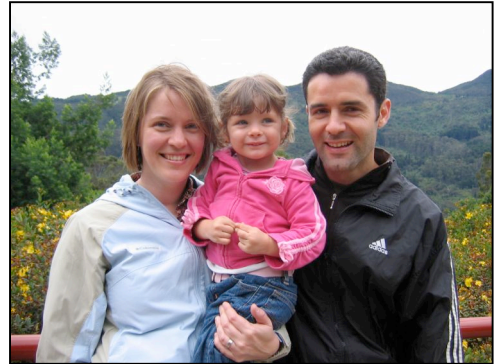
A few months ago we held a forum at school on restorative justice. The basic idea is that conflicts should be solved by restoring relationships rather than looking to assign blame and mete out punishment. Ruth Daza, fellow English teacher and conciliation director at school, gave one of the main lectures.

The following week we faced a unique situation which offered us the opportunity to practice what we were preaching. The entire eleventh grade class had conspired to cheat on a chemistry test. The teacher, who had a close relationship with the students, was deeply hurt by the broken trust.

Rather than simply suspending the culpable students (which, in this case, included nearly all 40 of the eleventh graders), the principal gave Ruth and Aaron the opportunity to try to look for a restorative solution to the problem. We took nearly two hours to guide the students through four questions: What exactly happened? Who accepts responsibility? What relationships were

damaged? How can we restore them?

As part of their response, the students organized a school assembly to confess what they had done and initiate an anti-cheating campaign at school. Highlights included an awareness-raising skit on various methods students use to cheat and a speech by the chemistry teacher.



Aaron's brother Ryan and his wife Christy visited us in July. We also enjoyed visits by Laura's relatives, sister Joanna and her husband Clay, and her other sister Rebecca. We were pleased to see Abby bonding with our siblings.

From Drugs to Drums: A Story of God's Faithfulness



Pastor Jaime and Aaron baptize Francisco

Francisco was the last person one would imagine ever playing in a worship band. A local artist, he was known for his hard living: lots of drugs, lots of alcohol, and lots of women. But less than a year after he set foot in the La Mesa Mennonite congregation, he is playing drums every Sunday during worship.

We first got to know Francisco last November. After church one Sunday, another member introduced us to him. Although we knew nothing about him, we invited him to drop by our house if he ever wanted to talk. Two days later he did, much to our surprise! He asked, "Does God really speak to people?" Aaron invited him to go for a walk so they could talk, but first went back inside to pray with Laura for a moment.

As they walked, Francisco shared about how he had grown up at the church, but had strayed very far over the years. He talked freely about how chaotic his life was, especially with women. Praying for wisdom in how to respond, Aaron told him: "You may not have been faithful to God over the years, but he has always been faithful to you. In all this time, he's never left you."

Eight months later, Francisco recounted this conversation as he gave his testimony before being baptized by Pastor Jaime and Aaron. God's transforming power is reflected in the joy on Francisco's face. We see it every Sunday at church as he plays his heart out on the drums for his Savior.