

In the mists of metropolis, God reveals his beauty

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — This isn't the view most people come to Monserrate to see.

That would be 180 degrees behind me — the city of Bogotá. From here at 10,397 feet, you can see planes taking off from the airport and watch the sun set over this South American metropolis of 8 million souls.

It's impressive. There's little doubt.

There's a Catholic shrine here that a lot of folks come to visit. Inside you'll find El Señor Caído, The Fallen Lord. It's a small statue, dating back to the 1600s, that depicts a weak, emaciated Jesus, lying on his side, struggling to rise. Perhaps it's a reference to the Catholic tradition that Christ fell three times on the way to his crucifixion. (Scripture doesn't tell us that — only that Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry Jesus' cross.)

My visit to Bogotá is the conclusion of a whirlwind trip across Latin America. I accompanied my wife, a pediatrician, on a medical mission trip to Guatemala before flying south to Colombia, where I visited a church-planting team in Cúcuta, a city on the Venezuelan border.

Pedro Villa graciously offered to host me on my stopover in Bogotá.

He's a fascinating guy — a native of Mexico who grew up in Texas after his dad was recruited to preach for some of the early Spanish-speaking Churches of Christ there. He's worked as a film producer and once was a missionary to Bogotá.

He's never forgotten his love for this city and its people, so last year he moved here. Now he works with the Northside Church of Christ, a small, middle-class congregation.

He sees potential for the churches of Colombia to be shining beacons of hope in busy, bustling cities where a lot of people acknowledge God but don't live out the truth of the Gospel.

Their lord, perhaps, is a fallen lord.

Pedro thought I should see Monserrate before I left Bogotá, so we took a cable car to the top. In between panoramic shots of the city, I noticed a rainbow in the mist behind me.

It got brighter — probably the most brilliant rainbow I've ever seen. It seemed so close. I could actually see through it. I could make out the trees on the mountainside, painted in brilliant yellow, indigo and red.

Most impressive. There's no doubt.

We build massive cities that we can view, in awe, from the highest heights. We carve images of the divine based on our limited understanding and make pilgrimages to see them.

But these are hollow reflections, a chasing after the wind, compared to the glory our Creator reveals to us through his creation.

Boy, am I glad I turned around.



- ERIK TRYGGESTAD—The Christian Chronicle, July 10, 2017

PRAYER LIST

- **Pauline Alvarez** (recovering from surgery)
- **Lauren Babb** (health)
- **Aaron Banks**
- **John Beiler** (health)
- **James Bohannon** (Rex Boggs's cousin—health)
- **Jim Carpenter** (Cody Chrismon's great uncle—health)
- **Dawn Clarke**
- **Family and friends of Mark Cooper** (Don Pitts's cousin)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound)
- **Bud Davis** (Sharron Mason's brother—health)
- **Dixie** (Debbie Faires's mother—Alzheimer's)
- **Jake Faires** (Air Force, deployed to Jordan)
- **Steven Faires, and Lexi**
- **Leon Giesecke** (Jan Moerbe's father—throat cancer)
- **Nelle Hahn** (health)
- **Gordon Hoffman** (Rex Boggs's friend—spiritual and physical health)
- **Josh Horn** (Jacob White's cousin—health)
- **Debbie Jalufka**
- **Molly Lind** (The Linds's daughter-in-law—recovering from auto accident)
- **Family and friends of Flora Lee Loescher** (Cheryl Pitts's grandmother)
- **Norman Pennock** (Debbie Fougerat's step-father, health)
- **Ada Powell** (Sharron Mason's sister—health)
- **T.J. Reid** (Nelle Hahn's brother—health)
- **Jean Rice** (Rex Boggs's cousin—health)
- **Family and friends of Bud Saint** (Zach Babb's uncle)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

PRAYER UPDATES

Molly Lind, Henry and Pam's daughter-in-law, remains hospitalized at St. David's in Austin where she is recovering from serious injuries sustained in an automobile accident. She has shown some signs of improvement and is being weaned from the ventilator, but is also battling the shingles virus.

We extend sympathy to the family and friends of **Flora Lee Loescher**, Cheryl Pitts's grandmother, who passed away this week. Funeral services will be held **tomorrow at 4 p.m. at the Smithville Church of Christ**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Singing at The Heights

Please join us **TODAY at 3:30 p.m.** for our monthly time of singing and fellowship at The Heights of Gonzales nursing home.

5th-Sunday Fellowship

Please join us **next Sunday at the Chrismons' at 5:30 p.m.** for our 5th-Sunday Fellowship. Hamburgers will be provided. Please bring sides and desserts to share. Kids may bring their swimsuits if they want to swim!

GISD Convocation Breakfast

The 2017 Gonzales ISD Teacher Convocation will be on **Thursday, August 10, 2017 from 8:00-9:00 a.m.** at the J.B. Wells Expo Center. The Chamber of Commerce will again be serving breakfast and is in need of volunteers to help with this event. **Volunteers are asked to arrive at the Expo Center by 7:20 a.m. to help set up and serve breakfast.** Please let Victoria know if you will be able to volunteer so the Chamber can be notified and delegate duties for the event.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us **at 5:15 p.m. this Wednesday** for dinner in the annex. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides to share, but please do not let that prevent you from joining us. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. To help, please sign up in the foyer. **If you signed up to prepare a meal, please send Victoria your menu by Wednesday the week before.**

Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

Volunteers are needed to prepare communion in the coming months. This task takes very little time and is a great service to the congregation. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets in the annex each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. The Lord's Supper is available.

Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

We rejoice with
Callie Chrismon
who was baptized on
Wednesday, July 19!

