



Dear Friend,

Most of my life I've spent my birthday in interesting places. Since I was born in June, my birthday lands right at the beginning of the summer vacation months. I've celebrated in Catalina, Washington D.C., summer camp, Louisiana, Santa Cruz, and many other places.



La rumba: a party for Nell with the Colombian Missionaries.

This year I turned 32 in Bogotá, Colombia! We had a wonderful **rumba** (party)!



The Stiff's celebrate!

Now, you may have certain images come to mind when you think of Colombia. I know I certainly did before I traveled there! What came to my mind? Drug lords, cocaine, gorilla warfare, danger... definitely not a place I would take my children! The way that Colombia is portrayed on the big screen, like *Clear and Present*

Danger and Proof of Life, gives us an image of what the country is like. And yet, Colombia is as much those images as California is what we see on *Baywatch*!

Kyle, Kayla, Elena, and I had the privilege of spending 17 days in Colombia and we loved it! We enjoyed the cold weather of Bogotá, savored the rich flavors of **arepas** (tortilla-like, cheese-filled corn patties) and **arequipe** (a caramel-like spread that you can eat on anything), and learned different Spanish words that are used in Colombia and not in Guatemala. Most of all, we had a great time with our Colombian friends as we stayed in their home!

The Colombian Internship was exciting! OC International has changed the way they are training their people, from an "information giving" model, to a "life processing" model. In this new paradigm, the focus is more on our personal and spiritual development and learning how to work together as a team. Our time with our Colombian brothers and sisters was rich and meaningful. This is an amazing group!

Please pray for these wonderful co-laborers! They are giving all that they are to the Lord's service and live on very little! Some of them maintain secular jobs to pay the bills, others are struggling to raise support, and some go on ministry trips with only enough money to get them there and trust the Lord to get them home! They are working in the areas of discipleship, leadership training, missions mobilization, and in indigenous areas. One woman is considering ministry in Brazil and one family hopes to work with Muslims in southern France. What a privilege to know this group of solid, talented believers!



Kayla and Elena enjoy a day at the park with the other missionary kids.

Thanks for your prayers, *Nell*