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Big Changes, New Beginnings, and Baby Amalia on the Way! - Our Latest Update

1 message

Juan Felipe Avila <juanfe.avila95@gmail.com> Bcc: office@cityviewcc.net Thu, Oct 16, 2025 at 12:28 PM

After a whirlwind season of transition, we're finally finding our footing — and preparing to welcome our little girl this December!

Beloved friends and supporters,

It's been quite a while since you last heard from us, so this update is a little longer than usual—thank you for taking the time to read.

First of all, we want to sincerely apologize for our silence over the past few months. These have truly been some of the most challenging and transformative months we've ever experienced as a family. Back in April, I was able to visit many of you and share glimpses of what was coming, but walking through these transitions in real time has proven to be far more intense than we could have anticipated. Only now are we beginning to feel a sense of stability and clarity about all that God has been doing.

God's Calling — Life Changes

At the start of this year, the Lord began stirring our hearts and shaking our comfort zones. He was inviting us into a deeper understanding of His plan and leading us into a season of change.

Unsustainable Situations

As many of you know, our local church—where both Majo and I grew up, and where my father faithfully planted and pastored for the past 17 years—had become a place of both joy and heavy strain. After three years of serving there full-time, the weight of responsibilities, combined with a lack of care and coverage for us as a pastoral family, made our situation increasingly unsustainable.

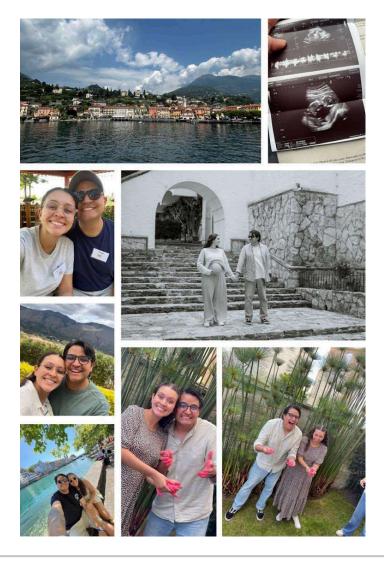
Through prayer, we came to realize that God was calling us away—not only to rest and heal, but also to be better equipped and cared for in this next season of ministry. Leaving this church, which we deeply love and consider home, was one of the most heartbreaking decisions we have ever faced.

Baby Amalia

Amidst all this transition, God gave us one of the greatest gifts we could ever receive: the news that we are expecting a baby! Many of you have already heard, but we are overjoyed to share again that we are awaiting the arrival of our beautiful daughter, **Amalia**, due this December.

Preparing for her has been such a joyful whirlwind—doctor visits, baby showers, and endless conversations about what life as a family of three will look like. This has been one of the most exciting chapters of our lives, even as it unfolds alongside so many other major changes.

If you'd like to bless baby Amalia, we've put together an [Amazon Registry] where you can find some of the items we'll need for her arrival.



Moving — Twice!

As if preparing for a baby and leaving our lifelong church weren't enough change, we also found ourselves moving— **twice**—in just a few months.

Our old apartment, while dear to us, was no longer practical (four flights of stairs and only two rooms). Some generous friends offered us the chance to rent their house, which was larger and affordable, so we moved. But only three months later, they had to sell it unexpectedly, leaving us scrambling for a new home with little time to spare.

Once again, we saw God's faithfulness: He provided a beautiful apartment with three bedrooms and an elevator, perfectly suited for our growing family. We've now been here for a month and are still amazed at how tenderly He has cared for us.

Serbia Mission Trip

In the middle of these transitions, God opened the door for us to travel with Harvest Church on a mission trip to Belgrade, Serbia, where we served at **Camp Hope**—a ministry for families with children who have special needs.

This experience was deeply refreshing, as we were reminded of the joy and privilege of serving others beyond our own circumstances. Afterward, we were even able to take a short break in Switzerland and Italy—something we never expected but which gave us the space to process so many of the life changes we were walking through.



A New Beginning at Conexión

Though leaving our home church was painful, God has graciously provided a new church family for us at **Conexión**. From the very first Sunday, they welcomed us with warmth and generosity. In fact, just one week after we started attending, they invited us to their church retreat and covered all our expenses so that we could be part of it.

Even more, they have been intentional in giving us time to rest, transition, and listen to God's voice before stepping back into ministry service.

Little by little, God has opened doors for us to serve again in ways that bring us joy. I've been able to continue **playing** the drums at the House of Prayer, which has been such a refreshing way to worship and stay connected to God's presence. Recently, I was also invited to manage the coffee shop the church is launching—a space designed to build community and create opportunities for discipleship. Both of these opportunities feel like the Lord's gentle way of allowing us to serve in this new season, at a pace that brings life and not burnout.



A Few Needs

Have you ever had one of those seasons where everything at home seems to break at once? That's exactly where we are right now! Over the past few weeks, our **fridge**, **couch**, **and mattress** have all stopped working—yes, all three at the same time.

God has been so good to us, and a kind friend has loaned us a small fridge for a few months, which has been a big help. However, we'll need to return it in January, and with baby Amalia on the way, it's definitely too small for a growing family!

Unfortunately, furniture and appliances in Colombia are quite expensive, so we haven't been able to replace any of these items yet. We estimate that replacing our fridge, couch, and mattress will cost around \$2,000 USD in total.

If you feel led to bless us and contribute toward this need, we would be deeply grateful. Every bit of support—whether through prayer, encouragement, or financial help—means so much to us during this time of transition and preparation for Amalia's arrival.



Looking Ahead with Gratitude

As we look back on these past months, we can only say: *God has been faithful*. Even in the midst of uncertainty, heartbreak, and constant transition, His hand has guided us, His provision has sustained us, and His love has reminded us that we are never alone.

We are deeply thankful for each of you—your prayers, encouragement, and support mean more to us than words can express. You have walked with us through seasons of joy and through seasons of challenge, and knowing that we are surrounded by such a faithful community gives us great strength.

As we enter this new chapter—preparing for baby Amalia, adjusting to our new home, and beginning a new season of ministry at Conexión—we ask that you continue to pray for us:

- For a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery for baby Amalia.
- For wisdom and patience as we embrace the transition into parenthood.
- For rest, renewal, and clarity as we discern how God wants us to serve in this next season.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We love you, we cherish you, and we look forward to sharing many more stories of God's goodness in the months ahead.

With love and gratitude, Felipe and Majo

DONATION INFO

If you wish to receive a tax-deductible receipt you can send your donation to L.E.M. (Latino Evangelistic Ministries), which is my mission and the organization that processes the donations in the US. Whichever option you choose please send Angela Loudon (LEM.Angela@gmail.com) a note specifying that the gift is for Juan Felipe Avila and include your name and address to which we can mail the receipt.

Account number: 3252 0569 5296 Routing number: 121000358

The other option is to send a **paper check:**Send in a check made out to "Latino Evangelistic Ministries" to the following address:

-L.E.M. -P.O. Box 8305 -Long Beach, CA 90808



You can make a transfer through **Zelle** using my email (juanfe.avila95@gmail.com) JUAN RUBIO.

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