

SOM  
INTERNATIONAL™

# Miracles IN THE MOUNTAINS

Colombia

By Russell and Marina Stendal

## From Drug Growers to Spiritual Leaders

Over four decades, our radio ministry has grown and developed, reaching many listeners in remote areas. By God's grace and the Holy Spirit's power, many who live outside the margins of acceptable society have become converted.

Among them are two indigenous men—in separate locations—who were once drug growers in the wild, untamed Southwestern Colombia mountains. **Their lives took a dramatic turn when God saved them and called them to ministry.** Let's call them "Jaime" and "Luis."

### Across the Mountains

Today, Jaime and Luis each run their own radio ministry, broadcasting hope and faith through transmitters located throughout the mountains of Southwestern Colombia. Their journey from drug growers to

spiritual leaders is nothing short of miraculous.

Over the years, we have helped with an incredible number of transmitters and antennas, as well as studios and computers. They record music and programs in their own tribal languages, and we provide them with access to all of our Spanish music and programs.

Local churches support the daily operating expenses. For example,

one key mother station has over sixteen smaller satellites. **Your years of generous financial support have increased radio outreach, Bible distribution, and the training of thousands of leaders.**

This growth brings more opportunities and needs. We praise God for his provision this past month. We were infused with a large gift and faithful monthly support for a total of \$36,000.

### Expanding Horizons and Impact

Over the years, larger transmitters have been installed along with better towers and, in some cases, solar energy. One of these stations, which started out with a very small transmitter, had **more than three thousand people call in to dedicate their lives to the Lord in the first six months of operation.**



▲ Jaime and Luis, Colombia

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At that point, we gave them a much more powerful transmitter. Similar testimonies are pouring in from stations beaming into Venezuela.

### Technical Repairs

Jaime and Luis have been trained in electronics over the years, and now they are fully capable of installing complex radio installations in extremely dangerous places all over Colombia. However, when key components break down or are damaged by lightning or a power surge, they send the equipment to our electronics lab for repairs. We normally cover repair costs because the local tribal congregations do not have the money.

Those who take a strong stand for the Lord in these areas renounce all forms of ill-gotten gains—such as from the mafia or from terrorist groups—and, therefore, are among the poorest members of society.

### A Call for Support

Over the past year, donations from North America to our ministry have fallen dramatically, causing us to make serious cutbacks. It's now to the point where we cannot repair many of the damaged transmitters,

so one by one, about ten of these stations have gone off the air. The ideal thing would be if we were able to buy new transmitters.

There are several dozen of these stations still on the air, and we are mobilizing all our used equipment and spare parts inventory to keep as many of them running as possible. Still, financially, we need a God-sized miracle for what seems impossible. **The need is overwhelming, but this is the perfect setup for God to send a breakthrough.**

### Unrest and Uncertainty

Colombia is experiencing political turmoil and degenerating into chaos. But we know from history that this can cause desperate people to seek the Lord. Jesus said, **It is expedient that I do the works of him that sent me while it is day; the night comes, when no one can work** (John 9:4).

We don't know how much longer the door will remain open to import and install transmitters, but we're trusting God's perfect timing. **Please pray for His provision and for a powerful boost to this indigenous radio ministry.**

Step into the story. Your support plus God's power makes the impossible possible.



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