WOW: Word Of the Week

Unexpectedly
August 12, 2026

Thirty Hours in Bogotá

We were returning to the United States from our last mission stop in Colombia. Our flight home involved an early morning domestic flight within Colombia (from southern Colombia to Bogotá), a connecting flight to the United States, and finally a flight home.

Our domestic flight arrived in Bogotá at 9:00 A.M. right on time. Just before noon, we found out that our flight to the U.S. was in danger of being cancelled. The airline representative encouraged us to consider delaying our return to the U.S. until the next afternoon at 3:00 P.M. The airline graciously offered to put us up in a hotel for the night, all meals included, until our flight the next day.

That is how we ended up spending 30 hours in Bogotá. To our surprise, the hotel was available for immediate check-in, even though it was still a little before noon. Yes, lunch was included!

What a blessing from the Lord. We were tired after almost two weeks of mission travels. After lunch and a quick hot shower, we were ready for a nap. Dinner was excellent—beyond expectations. We lingered; we talked. We had an opportunity that is seldom part of our mission work—we debriefed, reviewed, reflected, and refreshed our bodies and spirits.

Breakfast is always incredible in Latin American hotels. The hotel shuttle took us back to the airport shortly after lunch. Our journey was completed with no further problems or changes.

Thirty hours in Bogotá. Thirty hours we had not anticipated. Thirty hours we did not want. Thirty hours we really needed. We would not have scheduled thirty hours in Bogotá.

Sometimes God does for us what we are not smart enough to do for ourselves!
[pp. 140-141, from Unhesitatingly]

This week's WOW. When are the problems of life God's blessings? Unexpected things arise. Do we automatically reject them as intrusions? Do we look for open doors? How do you deal with the little hiccups of life? In the answer you give, you will probably learn how you deal with the big crises in life!

This week's WOW is meaningful to Jan and to me. Not because of 30 hours in Bogota which turned out to be something we needed. But because we are passing through another unexpected life bump.

Unexpectedly. Can you see it? God is still in control. God still sees all. God still provides.