

Aschmann Action

September 2008

*11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;
12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. Psalm 91:11-12*



A group of teenage Vacation Bible School workers from three languages and cultures (English, Spanish, Quichua), ministering to mostly Spanish- and Quichua-speaking children (with a couple of missionary kids thrown in)

Rick: Well, we are finally back home in Ecuador and settling back into our “real life” after our hectic year in the U.S. It was so good to get back and settle in. The kids were also glad to get back to bedrooms and toys they hadn’t seen in a year!

It has been a busy summer. Almost as soon as we arrived we got involved in preparations for summer work teams. These are teams that come down from different churches in the U.S. to help out with various projects or ministries here in Ecuador, and at the same time get their vision broadened, seeing first-hand what cross-cultural mission work really involves.

We were involved with two differ-

ent teams that came down for a week each, doing, among other things, Vacation Bible School, construction, and a men’s retreat for a number of different churches.

After all the work teams left, our team of missionaries and Ecuadorian coworkers went down to the hot eastern jungles for a retreat of our own. We had a good time of refreshment and teaching by Bill Yarbrough, our area director.



The steamy jungle and two snow-capped peaks, Sangay and Altar, from our hotel

Betty: Praise God. Our new video production suite is getting set up. I now have the editing equipment and have been learning to use it. The camera and accessories are on order, and as soon as someone comes to Ecuador who can carry them in a suitcase, we’ll have the whole setup. We have various projects in mind. Please pray for God’s wisdom in how best to use our time and equipment.

Rick: We thank the Lord for his marvelous protection for our 5-year-old daughter, Anne. One night when we were at church she tried to run through a glass door that she thought was open, but it wasn’t! She made a hole in the glass the size of her head, with her face! (A few minutes later someone opened and shut that door, and the entire rest of the pane fell out.) She had serious, deep cuts all the way down her nose, and had to have plastic surgery under general anesthetic the next morning.

But we shudder to think how much worse it could have been. No bone or cartilage was penetrated. There were cuts both below and above her eye, but the eye was unharmed. Her guardian angel was clearly on duty that night, and we praise the Lord for his protection! A friend from church drove us to the hospital while I held Anne's bleeding nose, and then recommended a friend who is a very good plastic surgeon. The scar is now just a thin pink line, and the doctor thinks that it will disappear completely with time.

Another momentous occasion occurred at the end of August: Anne started kindergarten! She was so excited she could hardly wait for the day to arrive. She attends Alliance Academy International, the same school my three older kids went to years ago. It is an English-speaking Christian school, and used to cater primarily to missionary children, but the mix has changed, since several missions are shifting their focus to other parts of the world. Now most incoming students are Ecuadorians, many coming with very limited English. Since Anne is bilingual, she can be a big help to the teacher!



Anne with her 25 stitches

Prayer & Praise

- Praise God for the new video production equipment. Please pray for God's wisdom in how best to use it and for Betty as she is getting everything set up and learning maintenance and use.
- Pray for Anne as she starts school and for the other children on our team who have started a new school year. Also we have several missionary kids starting college this fall.
- Praise God that the literacy program at *Sembradores* Church is going so well. Continue praying that this vision may spread to many other Quichua churches.
- Pray for the Quichua men's Bible study as we restart it after a hiatus of a year. Pray that God would bless it and allow it to accomplish its purposes, and that the leadership of the *Sembradores* Church will really grow strong in the knowledge of God's Word.



Cultural Closeup

Betty: Our little girl is going to school now, and that certainly affects our schedule. The Ecuadorian school system runs on a similar schedule to the U.S. system. Classes start around the first of September and will run until mid-June or the end of June. Public schools and most private schools require the students to use uniforms. Alliance Academy is one of the few that does not.

Public schools are not supposed to cost the parents, but between registration fees and purchasing books, supplies, and uniforms, the cost really adds up. It ends up not really being free public school. Since there is not an effective way for officials to check up on enrollment, many poor children don't get around to attending.

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