

Merry Christmas
from



Aschmann Action

December 2008

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.
2 Corinthians 8:9

Rick: From time to time, in my interaction with the Quichuas and with many of the other poor people here in Ecuador, I am sharply reminded of the economic gap between them and us. Things that to me are incidental expenses, like a candy bar, or things that I'm in the mood for, like taking my family out for lunch, I seldom think twice about. But to many of the Quichuas that we work with, these can be serious expenses, and are viewed as luxuries that they seldom get to partake of. Most of them have never tasted a pizza, even though you can order them here just like you can in the States. And if you told them what one costs (even with Tuesday half price!), they would be shocked and amazed that you wasted all that money on such a little thing, when they can feed a family on a couple of dollars a day!

But when Jesus left heaven and his royal throne, and came to earth to be born as a tiny baby, he crossed an economic gap far wider than this one. And he didn't choose to be born into a wealthy family, or even a middle-class one. His family was clearly poor. In Luke 2:24, when they presented the baby Jesus in the temple, they offered a sacrifice of a pair of doves, which was the poor people's option: those who were better off were expected to sacrifice a lamb and a dove, but Mary and Joseph couldn't afford it. (See Leviticus 12:6-8.)

And why did he do it? For us, so that through his poverty we might become rich, and inherit



*James and Christina Aschmann
September 26, 2008*

In September we went to Seattle, Washington to attend James's wedding to Christina Ferrin. They will eventually be living in Maryland after James's stint in Korea finishes in January. This was the second wedding this year of one of our children, after Heidi's in April!

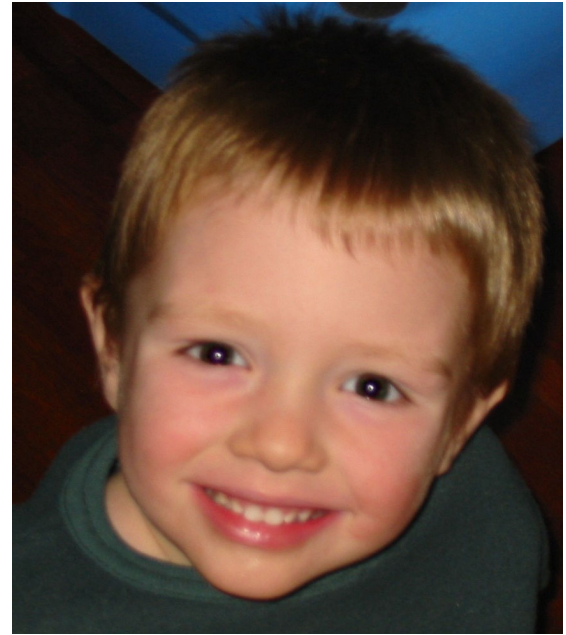
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This newsletter can be seen on the Internet at:
www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter.



Anne's nose is healing up beautifully!
Thanks for praying.



Nathan should have more accidents, considering he
climbs everything!

eternal life, and become children of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In heaven, there won't be any economic gap between the Quichuas and us. I talked about this in a sermon on the nature of the church that I recently preached to a Quichua congregation. They got very excited!

Prayer & Praise

- Praise God for an excellent Missions Vision Trip we recently hosted, with representatives from five different churches in the U.S., who came down to see the work of our team firsthand.
- Praise God that all of the new video production equipment is now here, including the camera. (One of the Vision Trip folks brought it.) Please continue praying as Betty learns to use all of the equipment and software, for God's wisdom in which projects to tackle first, and that God would mightily use this new tool.
- Please pray for our family's health. We have had a lot of illness, what with one thing or another, since we returned from the U.S. in June. As I write this letter I cannot hear out of my left ear because of an ear infection. Please pray that our defenses will get built up, and that we will be able to rest when we need to.



Cultural Closeup

Betty: I thought I'd do something different this time and explain how we celebrate a U.S. holiday in another country. We just had a good old-fashioned Thanksgiving. The Ecuadorians don't celebrate Thanksgiving, so we take the Thursday off, invite some North American friends and colleagues and celebrate. This year a U.S. family and a Canadian family joined us for the day. Turkeys are available here, and sometimes jellied cranberry sauce, also. You usually cannot find pumpkin or sweet potatoes. We didn't miss out on pumpkin pie, though. When we went to the U.S. for James's wedding, I bought a couple cans, so we could have pumpkin for Thanksgiving and Christmas. I don't know how much turkeys cost in the U.S., but just for your interest, my 14-pound turkey cost about \$27.

Another interesting detail... we have a small-sized Ecuadorian oven. When we first roasted a turkey, we had to measure the oven, then buy a roaster pan that just fit into the oven. Now we always have to get a turkey that fits that pan. A 16-pounder is about the biggest we can cook.