

Aschmann Action

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But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.
1 Peter 3:15a

Rick: We were climbing on foot up the rough dirt street in the dark, occasionally dodging big buses as they came barreling up or down. It was cold, but that was all right, because the climb was warming us up. I was glad I had my hiking boots on, both because of the cold and because it was wet and muddy. At one point we stopped and turned around. Spread out below us were the lights of the great city of Quito, 1,000 feet below us, spread out like a glowing snake on its long, thin plateau set on the side of a mountain. You can never get pictures of sights like that!

We had just gotten started in a one-week intensive Evangelism Explosion clinic for Quichua speakers. At the end of each day part of the training involved going out into the neighborhood and visiting with people in order to de-



Juan Manuel (a Central Highland speaker) and Segundo (an Imbabura speaker who works with our team) practicing the evangelism presentation



The clinic was conducted by Ed and Elenore Beach, who have many years of experience working with Indian groups in Guatemala. There were some 11 participants there from three different Quichua languages: Central Highland Quichua, Imbabura Quichua and Salasaca Quichua. (See www.quichua.net/Q/English.html.) We all learned the presentation first in Spanish, and then each participant practiced doing it in his own Quichua language. It was fascinating! These three languages are different enough that they need their own Bible and other written materials, but on a conversational level they can understand each other pretty well. It was fun to see them all relating to each other in Quichua, and laughing about how they said things differently.

None of these participants had a very high level of education, and some of them did not know their Bible all that well. However, for the most part they were able to learn the presentation well, so that they are now *prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks them to give the reason for the hope that they have!* And during the week, on the visits, several people gave their lives to Jesus. That's what it's all about!

During the following week a smaller group of us worked on fine tuning the presentation in Quichua. I worked with the Central Highland and Imbabura speakers, and another missionary, Larry Salay,

velop a relationship with them and share with them the good news of salvation in Jesus. It was a far more relational approach than the E.E. I learned many years ago: the idea was to visit with the same person or family on five different occasions, and to spend a lot of time getting to know them before starting any kind of presentation. Then, on each occasion you tell a different story from the Bible, starting with Genesis and ending up with Jesus.



Filming a dramatization of the evangelism presentation in Central Highland Quichua. José Manuel, the one on the right, is giving the presentation. He is the pastor in training at a church we work with.

worked with the Salasaca speakers. Then we recorded it all in audio and video form. The audio form is an exact recording of the presentation, so that the students can learn it well. The video, on the other hand, is intended to be an example of the presentation in as natural a form as possible. The actors who volunteered to do the recording really got into their parts, and hammed it up beautifully, using all the necessary props and cultural situations.

My wife Betty and the Beaches did the filming and editing to produce the final DVDs. Betty got to use all of her new equipment and skills in this project! The completed DVD in Central Highland Quichua is about 1½ hours in length. We were able to finish the Central Highland and Imbabura filming. The Salasaca filming will be done later, and we are hoping to travel out to the town of Salasaca some time in the next few months to work with Larry on that.

All of the actors were Christians, but it was interesting to see how the ones playing the non-Christians played their parts. They simply played themselves before they were Christians, as alcoholics who mistreated their families, which is the story of so many non-Christian Quichuas. And at the end of both the Central Highland and Imbabura filming, one of them started crying (something we certainly had not expected or suggested), remembering how they were without Jesus, and how he had changed their lives.

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

Hearing the Gospel afresh through a half-century-old recording

To read a wonderful story about the legacy of my parents' missionary work, in lieu of our traditional *Cultural Closeup*, see:
www.aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter/NLet-2009-07-Extra.pdf



Paúl Chiriboga with Segundo and a resident of the village

In June I drove up to Imbabura to get Paúl Chiriboga set up in the Quichua village where he will be living. Since then he has settled in a bit there, and has begun learning the Quichua language. And he is really finding out in a hurry what it is like to live like the Quichuas do: He told me recently that he is very tired: The pastor there in the village had him working with him all day one day clearing heavy brush with a machete, then planned a church service for 6:00 a.m. the next morning. The Quichuas work extremely hard, and sort of expect others to be able to do the same! Pray for Paúl. The first stages of "village living" are always very stressful! Also, he is still without any promised support, but isn't letting that stop him!

Prayer & Praise

- Thanks for praying for the Evangelism Explosion course, it went very well, both in the week of training and in the week of recording, with very few glitches. Must have been a lot of people praying!
- Thanks for continuing to pray for our health and energy. God's answer seems to have been to throw us into work and ministry so that we don't have time to think about ourselves. Not that we aren't still tired, but that's par for the course!
- Thanks for continuing to pray for the crisis that our team is going through (I still can't give details), and especially for our team leader, Craig Pohl, who is carrying the heaviest load. We see some positive things, and it isn't taking up as much of our team's time, but the main issue continues unresolved. (Isn't it interesting praying without details? No problem: God knows them all!)
- Continue praying for Paúl Chiriboga, the young man we mentioned in our last letter, in his first experience living in a Quichua village, learning Quichua and helping with projects in agriculture and Bible teaching. Pray also that national Christians and churches will really get on board in helping to provide his needed prayer and financial support.