

Aschmann Action

October 2009

“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

For you will spread out to the right and to the left...

Isaiah 54:2-3

Rick: God is constantly trying to stretch us outside of our “comfort zones.”

Every summer our team receives several visits by work teams from some of our supporting churches. One of the teams that was scheduled to come this year had experience in Vacation Bible School. If a visiting team has experience and is familiar with the VBS materials, it can be very effective when the teaching roles are shared by visitors and local church members. This is true even when the visitors have to do all of their teaching through interpreters. We had arranged for this work team to do a VBS at a church in Paltapamba, a Quichua village four hours south of Quito.

Unfortunately, after we had tentatively made the arrangements with the Paltapamba church, the team from the U.S. had to cancel. This was disappointing, since some members of our team had been working to train teachers in the Paltapamba church, and we particularly wanted to encourage the church at this time, and give the teachers an opportunity to put into practice what they had learned.



Rick and Segundo teaching the church leaders

We discussed it as a team, and someone said, “Why don’t we do it anyway, just our team?” However, then we realized that, because of other commitments, none of the missionaries on our team would be available during the week for those particular dates. Then one of our Ecuadorian national partners said, “We could do it without you folks!”

And they did! Cecilia and Rita committed to do it, as well as Segundo and two of his grown children. They had never organized anything like that on their own, but they organized the whole thing in cooperation with the Paltapamba leaders and teachers, and the VBS was a resounding success. Our family got to attend the last two days on Saturday and Sunday, combining it with a training course that Segundo and I taught to the church leadership.



Rita and Cecilia helping shell beans for the children’s lunch

Prayer & Praise

- Praise God that Anne and Nathan are having a good start to school. They are both enjoying it very much. Anne is in 1st grade and Nathan is in preschool at Alliance Academy International – the missionary school here in Quito.
- Continue praying for *Paúl Chiriboga*. He is struggling with aspects of culture shock and communication in the Quichua village where he is living (both quite normal in a cross-cultural situation like this), but praise God that He has strengthened, taught, and guided *Paúl* through these and other recent struggles. Praise also that he has received some additional support from Ecuadorian Christians, but please continue to pray that more national Christians and churches will really get on board in helping to provide his needed prayer and financial support.
- Pray for our whole team as we set priorities for the ministry. There are so many open doors for ministry to the Quichuas right now that we need God’s guidance as to which areas to commit our time and energy to.



The children's presentation in the Vacation Bible School

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

I have also continued to be involved in discipling and encouraging Paúl Chiriboga, as he continues to live in a Quichua village up north in Imbabura province, learn the Quichua language, and

help the community in various ways, including agricultural projects and Bible teaching.

How can I do that at a distance? Well, even though the village is somewhat isolated, they have electricity, and the cell phone reception is great, since they are high up on the side of a mountain. Also, from time to time Paúl puts his laptop in his backpack, makes the hour walk to the nearest town, and calls me over the Internet using a free wireless service available in a park. Modern technology is showing up in the most unexpected places!

He is making good progress both in language learning and in building relationships within the Quichua cultural context, but he has also been through some rough spells, and he would appreciate your continued prayers.



Ready for the first day of school.



Cultural Closeup

Rick: On the way to take Paúl back up to the Quichua village recently, we left early, and stopped for breakfast at an open food market. We had soup for breakfast, a common thing in Ecuador, in this case a kind of fish stew.

All of a sudden Paúl says to me, "Hey, I want you to try something! I really think you'll like it."

"Sure", I said, "what is it?"

"That lady over there is selling alfalfa juice. You want some?"

"Sure, I'll try it."

"She also adds quail eggs, which makes it really yummy."

"Raw or cooked?"

"Oh, raw."

I'm game for pretty much anything once, so I said okay.

I watched her make it. First she poured the alfalfa juice into the blender, added some sugar, and then tossed the quail eggs in, **shells and all**.

How was it? Actually, it wasn't too bad. I didn't have any trouble getting it down. Would I ask for it again some time? I'd have to be in the right mood...



The alfalfa juice



Paúl and the juice lady. You can see the quail eggs and the blender.