

Aschmann Action

March 2011

The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps. Proverbs 16:9 ESV

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 ESV

Rick: The above verses are very true! Quite a few of our plans have taken longer than we expected, usually due to factors outside of our control, though thankfully not outside of God's control!

I mentioned in our June newsletter that we hoped to get started on the Central Highland Quichua Old Testament translation soon after we returned from the U.S. However, because of planning and scheduling complications involving the sponsoring organization, this was delayed to this year. We finally had a kick-off workshop in February to get started!

Similarly, we have been wanting to see the Imbabura Bible reprinted since last year, with some of the more critical errors corrected. Again, because of planning and scheduling complications involving the sponsoring organization (not the same one), and several weeks of serious illness for me, I have still not been able to turn in those corrections. Thankfully, I have now finished the necessary corrections and they're ready to turn in to the publisher.

Also, Betty has been working hard to complete the editing of a set of DVDs for the "Growing Together in Christ" conferences on church planting and revitalization that took place last summer, so that the churches and church leaders can have them available. In spite of all her other duties as wife and mother, she finished them last month!

Sometimes we get very impatient and frustrated when things we are anxious to see happen keep getting delayed. But we know this is all part of God's schooling in character for us, and we know that he uses these delays for good in ways we cannot anticipate. That's the promise we have in Romans 8:28!

A New Adventure

We have a new adventure before us that we would like you to pray about with us. As part of the new "Growing Together in Christ" initiative, Segundo Anrango and I have been challenged to consider the possibility of planting a Quichua church here in Quito, in a neighborhood that does not have any Quichua churches. We are both excited about the possibility, but at the same time we are not too sure how to go about it. The team from Monterrey, Mexico, that is encouraging our team and the churches here in this endeavor has provided us with lots of good principles and strategies for planting Spanish-speaking churches, but it is not clear how well those strategies will work for the Quichuas. Please pray as we seek to apply these principles and adapt them to the Quichua context.



This is one of several neighborhoods we are considering for the Quichua church plant. This neighborhood lies along the side of a deep canyon, and goes up to about 10,500 feet, which is 1500 feet higher (and colder!) than most of Quito, visible in the haze in the background.

There are many important cultural differences. One is that the many thousands of Quichuas here in Quito are nearly all transplants from the countryside or small towns far from Quito, and are generally living scattered in Spanish-speaking neighborhoods. The one thing that keeps them from getting totally lost in the big city are the connections that they maintain with their community back home and with their Quichua-speaking relatives and friends in Quito. A Quichua church can be a big factor in helping maintain those ties, but the trick is getting things started, and getting a core group together, so that those connections can begin to draw others in!



Segundo and his wife Laura

We have looked at several different neighborhoods in this huge city as possibilities, but we need a lot of wisdom from the Lord to know how to find or build

a core group, and where to begin a Bible study or small group that can begin to grow into a church.

Please continue praying for our needed support. Thank you to those of you who have made pledges since our last newsletter! We are still lacking about \$800 per month in monthly pledges, and the mission has asked us to continue to try to raise that amount. We appreciate your prayers and support so much. Please send pledges or support to:

Mission to the World

PO Box 116284

Atlanta, GA 30368-6284 Rick and Betty Aschmann, account #10107

Prayer & Praise

- Praise God for protecting Betty in a serious traffic accident last month. She was bruised up, but not badly injured. Our vehicle is totaled, though, so we are car shopping again!
- In March our dog Sandy was poisoned to death in our front yard, during the day. This is the second time in the space of a year that this has happened. The last time we were robbed. Please pray for wisdom as to whether we need to move, or what security measures we can put in place, and for the children, who are devastated!
- Please pray that God would guide clearly and open doors for a possible new Quichua church plant here in Quito.
- Continue praying for all of our projects and ministries:
 - The Central Highland Quichua Old Testament translation, as our team continues working on it.
 - The reprinting of the Imbabura Quichua Bible, with corrections, that this can happen soon and be done expeditiously and well.
 - The continued training of the leaders of the Star of Bethlehem church in Paltapamba.
 - *Paúl Chiriboga* in his ministry in Mondayacu.
- Praise that Betty was able to complete the current set of DVDs for the *Creer Juntos en Cristo* (Growing Together in Christ) initiative, and that I was able to complete the needed corrections on the Imbabura Bible.
- Continue praying for our remaining needed monthly support.



Cultural Closeup

Rick: Lately it has been really rainy and cold here in Quito, much colder than usual. Why, it's gotten as low as 46° Fahrenheit at night! Remember, we live almost on the equator here in Quito, so we have no summer or winter, instead, the temperature stays about the same all year long. But we also live high in the mountains, so it's never really hot. So why would we think 46° is cold? Because if it's 46° outside, it will be around 56° inside: The houses here are not insulated or heated in any way (except for maybe a fireplace in the living room), and the walls are made of solid brick or masonry, with no wood or sheetrock. We almost always leave our bathroom window (the louvered kind) open, and the door too, because there are no bathroom fans, and things won't dry unless you let the breeze blow through. Getting out of a warm bed in the morning into a bedroom at 56° is cold, especially if it has rained all night and the air is damp! Even going to bed in a cold, slightly damp bed (if it has been raining all day) can be a bit of a shock till you get it warmed up! And most people always wear a sweater or jacket, even in the house. But lately, with all the rain, I've even been wearing gloves in the house!

The kids had some days off from school recently, so some friends invited us over for a fun day. They planned on the kids having water fights out on the lawn, and playing on a slip-and-slide. That would have been fine if the day had been sunny and the temperature had been close to 70° (about as hot as it gets here), but instead it was overcast and 58°. Still, the kids had been looking forward to it, so we let them do it anyway. Nathan (now 5) lasted about two minutes before he was shivering uncontrollably, and several other kids didn't last much longer! The die-hards played for about 45 minutes.

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Mission web sites:

www.mtw.org
www.mtwla.org

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www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter.