

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35-39 NIV

"What? The Aschmanns are moving to Colombia? But why? They've been working all these years with the Quichuas in Ecuador! Are they giving up on the Quichua work? And anyway, in their December newsletter I'm sure they said the plan was for them to return to Ecuador in July! What happened?"

Yes, it's true, we are temporarily moving to Bogotá, Colombia, probably for two years. But no, we have certainly not given up on the Quichua work! On the contrary, the whole purpose of this move is for us to receive further training and experience in order to do the work among the Quichuas more effectively. I will be involved in a church-planting internship with Mission to the World's experienced church-planting team in Bogotá. There will be several other missionary couples joining this internship program this year, some of whom will then move on to other church-planting opportunities in other countries, just as we will.

And as those who have followed our family's adventures for many years will remember, in a way it will be like going home for me, since I lived in Bogotá and other parts of Colombia for many years a long time ago, and I can introduce Betty and the kids to some of my old haunts.

Current Support Situation

This change of plans has affected our support situation, increasing our monthly need. The cost of living in Colombia is somewhat higher than Ecuador, so the new figure for our remaining needed monthly support is \$1844 per month. If the Lord permits, we would still like to return to the mission field this summer, so please pray that He will bring in the needed pledges from our faithful supporters to meet this need before then.

And please consider whether God may be calling you, your congregation, or those you know to begin, renew, or increase your financial support for our ministry. If you could pledge to give yearly or monthly, it would help us toward this goal. If you need further information about supporting our ministry please contact us directly at **972-535-4356, 308-650-0537**, or RAschmann@mtwsa.org.

We are also in need of more than \$10,000 in special one-time gifts for the moving expenses. We would appreciate you prayerfully considering giving toward this, also.

Please send pledges or support to: **Mission to the World**
PO Box 116284
Atlanta, GA 30368-6284
For the ministry of: **Rick and Betty Aschmann, account #10107**

When we wrote our December letter we had been planning to return to Ecuador in July. However, in January the decision was made by the mission to reassign us temporarily to the Bogotá team.

As we have mentioned before, we have had a growing vision to be involved in new Quichua church plants in Ecuador. In order to be able to do that, I am pursuing ordination as a pastor, with the blessing of both MTW and my home church in Alabama. However, the decision was finally made, after the rest of our MTW team left Quito in December, that without a team to support us there, and without adequate experience in church planting, it would not work for us to return to Ecuador without some additional training. The Bogotá team was the best choice for receiving that training.

But this doesn't mean that we are dropping all of our ministries in Ecuador during this time! Instead, I will be making trips back to Ecuador on a regular basis to continue some of these ministries.

We are getting excited about the internship and our new team, but we are feeling rather overwhelmed by the task of planning a major move in the short time we will have to arrange things! We know that God is

clearly leading us, and we are so thankful that in spite of trouble and hardship and all of the other things mentioned in the verse above, nothing ever separates us from His love!

Prayer & Praise

- Pray for us as we gear up for this major move from Ecuador to Colombia, apply for visas to Colombia, and travel to Bogotá and Quito this summer to coordinate this move. In particular, pray that we will find just the right company to handle the shipping of our household. Also pray that the Lord would provide us with just the right house in Bogotá. Inexpensive housing is often in short supply, and we have a limited amount of time to find a house and complete all the complicated paperwork. And please pray that we will not get overwhelmed with all the details we have to work through to make this move!
- Pray that the Lord will bring in our needed monthly support so that we may return to the mission field this summer as planned.
- Continue praying for us in all of our travels visiting friends and supporters, for safe travels and the energy we will need. Pray also for Betty as she continues home schooling the children.



Cultural Closeup

Rick: Over the many years we have been missionaries, we have found that it is always easier to stay in shape and maintain our desired weight when we are on the mission field than when we are in the United States. In fact, I have been known to complain, "Just living in the United States is fattening!" But why is this true? The answer is that it is partly a result of general lifestyle differences between countries, and is partly a result of the special lifestyle a missionary lives while on "Home Ministry Assignment."

In Ecuador we walk a lot, without even planning it or thinking about it. The children's school was less than half a mile away, but was 300 vertical feet below our house, which sits on the side of a mountain. We usually did that walk with them twice a day. Many other places we needed to go on a daily basis were within walking distance, since in Quito things are packed a lot closer together. The situation is similar in a lot of places in Latin America, including Bogotá.

And when I did want to get some extra exercise, I just had to step out my front door, which was on the side of an almost 16,000 foot tall volcano, and start hiking uphill! Bogotá is also high in the mountains, but we don't expect our house there to be right on the side of a mountain.

In the United States things are much more spread out, so people seldom walk, since it just isn't practical. This means that to get regular exercise, it always has to be planned, rather than happening as a natural part of life. This is one of the things that is hard for us when we return to the U.S. for our Home Ministry Assignment, along with the fact that we don't have a routine and are on the road a lot. So we just have to be a lot more disciplined to plan the exercise we need, and to not take that second helping of lasagna or cheesecake at the church supper!



Hiking with friends on the mountain behind our house, with Quito spread out below

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Mission web sites:

mtw
 Mission to the World

www.mtw.org

www.mtwla.org

www.hcjb.org

www.wycliffe.org

Our newsletters can be seen on the Internet at:

www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter.