

Aschmann Action

September 2015

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalms 91:1 ESV

Settling in and Getting some Rest

Rick: We arrived in Quito on June 14, and moved into the house that God provided for us, a very interesting house, but one that meets our needs very well. Since then we have been trying to settle in (with what little we had before our stuff finally arrived from Colombia), applied for our resident visas, renewed many friendships and contacts, and got some much-needed rest, something we had not had a chance to get much of for several years!

In our last newsletter I said that it would take at least three weeks to get our resident visas, and it actually took exactly three weeks. Unfortunately we were still waiting on some documents we had ordered from the U.S., which took a lot longer than we expected, so we couldn't apply for the visas until more than two weeks after we arrived. And then it took another week to get the visas stamped into our passports, which needed to happen before we could even start the process of importing our household goods from Colombia. And that involved other paperwork and procedures that we only found out about along the way. Suffice it to say that our household goods were not delivered until August 25, more than two months after we got here.

But after so many years on the mission field we are not actually surprised: mission life is like this, and in our experience it could have taken even longer. Thank you for your prayers! We now have the last visas we will ever need to apply for to live in Ecuador, and our household goods came from Colombia with no problems.

Cotopaxi Eruption

One exciting thing that happened after we got here was that the Cotopaxi volcano started showing activity in June and actually started erupting steam and ash on August 14. It has continued to erupt repeatedly since then. It is only 35 miles away and we can see part of it from our flat roof (between some buildings). Some of the ash has been blown as far as Quito, and we have found a dusting of ash on top of our washer and dryer, which are on the roof.

Thankfully, the danger to us here in Quito is minimal, even if the mountain becomes a lot more active. However, that is not the case for areas closer to the volcano, or places (like the valley just below Quito) which lie in the drainage area of the volcano. This volcano has produced major eruptions with pyroclastic flows and massive mudflows (called lahars) within the last two centuries, and if it erupted violently again it could endanger large numbers of people. For this reason the government is

Thank you!

Thanks again to so many of you who sent in extra funds over the last few months, and of course also to our faithful regular supporters. At the beginning of August our MTW account had the highest balance it has had for a whole year, which was wonderful, because our international moving bill had to be paid in August!



The Cotopaxi volcano erupting with ash and steam on August 22, viewed from close to our house in Quito. The ash has stained the white glacier black, though thankfully very little has melted so far. This amazing picture was taken by professional photographer Ricardo Coronel (www.ricardocoronel.com), who kindly gave me permission to use it here.

Prayer & Praise

- Praise God for bringing us safely back to Quito to again minister to the Quichua Indians of Ecuador.
- Praise God that our resident visas were approved and that we can now stay in Ecuador long-term.
- Please pray as we begin again our ministry to the Quichua Indians, that God will give us just the right contacts as we work toward planting a church in the Quichua language and train leaders.
- Please pray for our children as they start another school year, in yet another school in another country. Anne is 12 and going into 7th grade and Nathan is 10, going into 5th grade.
- Please pray that our giving will remain strong, as we are still lacking around \$900 per month in official pledges.
- Please pray that the Cotopaxi volcano will settle down again and not leave large numbers of people displaced for an extended period, and that it will not have a violent eruption destroying property and lives.

already evacuating a number of areas around the volcano, including many Quichua-speaking areas.

It has become kind of a standing joke with us that I cause volcanic eruptions, because of my last name. Shortly after I arrived in Ecuador in 1998 three different volcanos became active that had not been active for many years, Pichincha (1999), Tungurahua (1999), and Reventador (2002). And when we announced our engagement Pichincha gave a spectacular eruption of steam high into the atmosphere. And now, just before we returned this year Pichincha, which had been quiet for a decade, reactivated, and now Cotopaxi has gone active. I really don't know why I would have that effect... I'm really not a hotheaded person!

To see the current status of the eruption, including some webcams, go to:

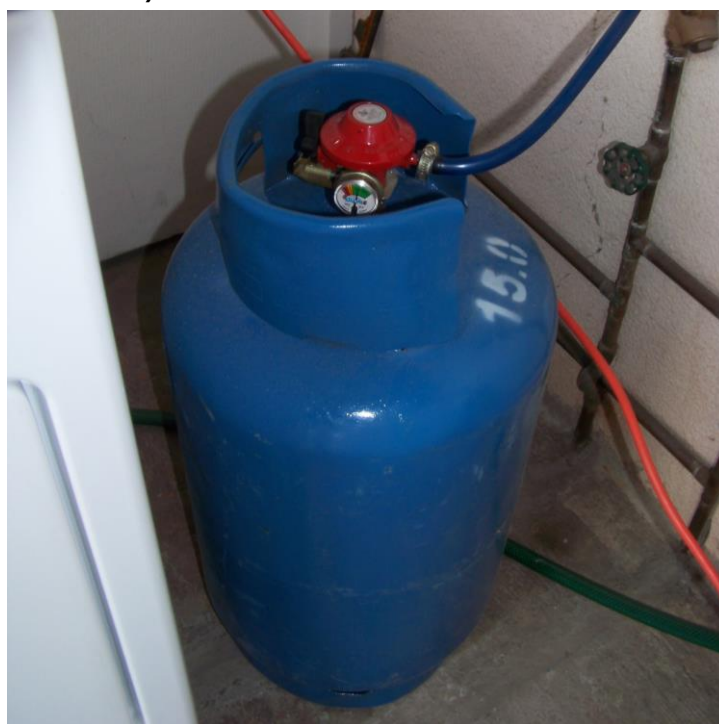
volcams.malinpebbles.com/pubweb/Cotopaxi.htm

Cultural Closeup



Betty: Even though they border each other and both speak Spanish, I have noticed some interesting differences between Colombia and Ecuador. For example, Colombians apparently don't like vanilla flavored yogurt, whereas that is a very popular flavor in Quito (and Rick's favorite). However, in Colombia they have something called Kumis, which is basically buttermilk with sugar in it, and Rick likes that, though I don't.

Also, in Colombia you have to pay up to 5 dollars for a few trash bags. (That always bothered me to pay so much for something whose purpose was to be thrown away.) In Ecuador you only pay just over \$1 for 10 larger trash bags and less for smaller ones.



Nice new gas tank with gauge. Sometimes you get new ones when you trade them in for a full one, but mostly you get really old, beat-up ones.

There is one difference we noticed immediately upon arrival in Quito... the gas system. We used a natural gas on-demand hot water heater in Bogotá, just like we have here. So when we moved into our nearly empty house to await our shipment, we thought we would at least have a hot shower. However, we had forgotten that there are no gas lines to the houses in Quito, and we had to go purchase a gas tank (\$65), regulator (\$20) and get set up before we had hot water. It took us a couple of days, but we finally had our much desired baths.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| E-mail address: | RASchmann@mtwsa.org |
| Personal web page: | www.Aschmann.net/Rick |
| Quichua web page: | www.Quichua.net/Q/Ec/English.html |
| Mailing address in Ecuador : | Rick & Betty Aschmann |
| (No packages please, or check with us first) | Villalengua OE4-342 y Bobadilla Quito, Ecuador South America |
| Virtual U.S. phone: | 972-535-4356 (works in all countries) |
| Rick's cell phone: | (011)-593-98-040-0192 |
| Home phone: | (011)-593-2-292-1549 |
| To give online: | Donate |
| Or go to www.mtwla.org | |
| → Ways to Give | |
| → Missionaries | |
| → Aschmann, Richard & Betty | |
| → Donate | |
| To give by mail: | |
| Mission to the World | |
| Account #10107 | |
| PO Box 2589 | |
| Suwanee, GA 30024-0982 | |
| Memo line: Rick & Betty | |
| Aschmann, acct. #10107 | |

Other sites: www.mtwla.org, www.hcjb.org, www.wycliffe.org

Our newsletters: www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter.