

Aschmann Action

September 2020

God is mighty!

Three months after the pandemic began, none of the Quichua families we had been pastoring had gotten the coronavirus. But all that has changed! Now of the dozen or so families that attended our meetings, and that I have been keeping in contact with by phone and WhatsApp, someone from each of four families has gotten very sick with it. Segundo, our Quichua pastor-in-training, and his wife were very ill for a couple of weeks, but thankfully they made a full recovery.

One day one of the Quichua ladies named María Beatriz called me and asked me to pray for her, because she was really sick. Her voice sounded terrible, and I asked if she had a cough and fever, and she said she did. I immediately suspected that she had the coronavirus, so I prayed with her quite fervently for healing.

The next day when I called her, her voice sounded a lot better. I asked, "How are you?" She said, "I'm fine." I said, "But you were really sick yesterday!" She said, "**Well, Pastor, you prayed for me, so I'm well now.**" God answers prayer, just like he says in James 5!

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

James 5:13-16 ESV



María Beatriz and her son David with the groceries we delivered, outside their humble home. Wearing masks outside is required, and there is a stiff fine if you don't.

A Food Delivery Adventure

Since María Beatriz and her family had been receiving food from the Pan de Vida ministry (pandevida.org.ec) that we have been helping with, I told the director I was pretty sure she had the virus. "Oh, then of course we don't want anyone in their family to come here to pick up food, and we are swamped. Do you know of someone who could pick up a sack of food from us and take it to them?" I said, "I can do that." But I was kind of nervous: I'm 65, and our daughter was recently diagnosed with diabetes and is just getting stabilized, so we are at high risk. Also it's a dangerous neighborhood.

But Betty and I took them the food. I only had a vague idea where they lived, but we found the neighborhood. I called them, but the cell service in the area was terrible. We spent about an hour trying to follow their directions without success, and for a while we were afraid we would never find them. We stopped and prayed. Finally they got through to us, and we found them. Their house was way up on the side of the mountain among a group of shacks.

We delivered the food (being very careful to follow all of the recommended protocols).

Anne's Diabetes

Those of you on our email list know that Anne, now 17, was diagnosed in June with type 1 diabetes. Thank you for praying for her. It is now pretty well under control, though it has drastically changed her diet and lifestyle, and to a lesser extent the whole family's. She will have to have treatment and watch her diet for the rest of her life, but we are so glad it was diagnosed while she was still at home where we could help her.

Thank you for helping us remain faithful!

Again we want to thank God for those of you who have been able to give during this crisis to keep us here and to allow us to be generous to the Quichuas who are out of work. Please pray for financial provision for us to remain here in Ecuador. We are still lacking about \$1800 per month in monthly pledges, so if you would like to join our partnership team, please let us know. You can give as shown below.



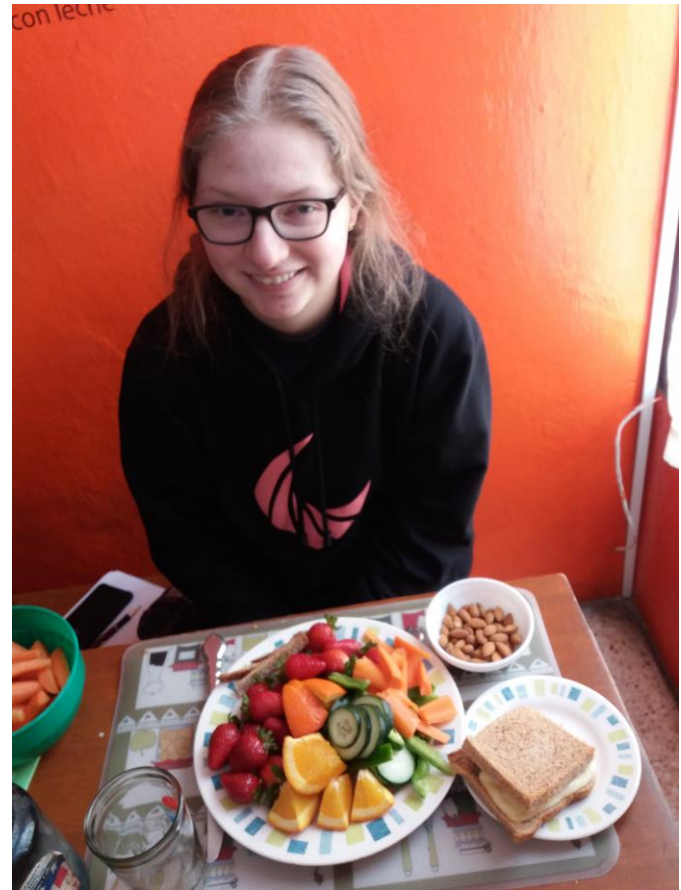
Cultural Closeup

One day I called up one of the Quichua men, and I mentioned to him that my daughter had just been diagnosed with diabetes, and that she had started treatment. He said, "Oh, those doctors, all they want is money! Here's what you do: peel a tangerine, boil up the skin, and have her drink that. She'll be fine!" I said thank you, and left it at that. I suspect he had never actually heard of diabetes.

Many Quichuas, and other poor people in Ecuador, tend to trust their traditional remedies a lot more than modern medicine. Even though Ecuador in theory has socialized medicine for all, the wait to get treatment is often long and difficult, and private doctors are beyond their means, so many of them have never really learned to put their faith in modern medicine.

Later on that same gentleman came down with the coronavirus, at least I believe so based on his symptoms, much like María Beatriz later on. And like her, he asked me to pray for him, that he would get well. I did so, and then began trying to figure out how to help him. I talked to the people at Pan de Vida, but they said there wasn't much chance of getting him treatment. The hospitals were overloaded with coronavirus cases, so he probably couldn't even get in. Anyway I realized that with his views on medicine, he wasn't likely even to be open to treatment in a hospital away from home and loved ones.

But like María Beatriz, after a few days he was beginning to recover, though his recovery wasn't quite as dramatic as hers. It took him weeks, but he did finally recover. Again God was faithful.



Anne's lunch

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Other sites: www.hcjb.org, www.wycliffe.org
Our newsletters: www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter.

Prayer & Praise

- Please pray that more people would come to know the Lord Jesus Christ through this crisis, and that those struggling with health and finances will see God's hand on their lives.
- Pray for the Old Testament translation project. We are waiting for instructions from Biblica on how to set it up on some software to be able to work on it together online, and the coronavirus crisis has slowed everything down.
- Praise God for his protection for Anne and the good doctors she has helping us.
- Praise God that Alliance Academy International has gotten off to a good start in the new school year, all online for now. Please keep Anne and Nathan and the teachers in your prayers.