

Finally, restarting meetings with the Quichuas!

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, it has been a full year since we have held our Sunday meetings with the Quichuas. However, finally we are trying to start them again, though with very serious restrictions in place. English Fellowship Church, the church we attend and which has been providing us with meeting rooms for the Quichuas over the years, started meetings a while back, and they are giving us full support in this reopening.



Anne's senior picture

We can't meet in Sunday school classrooms as we have in the past, because we're only allowed 30% capacity in any room, and each family must stay 6 feet away from all others. However, the church has tents that they set up on the church lawn every Sunday, and they will allow us to use them for our meeting in the afternoon. Everyone will have to wear masks and practice social distancing, which for the Quichuas is especially difficult, since their whole culture revolves around large group get-togethers. We will have to take everyone's temperature and apply various other measures.

We have been keeping in touch with a number of the families over these months, and we are letting them all know about the meetings, but we have no idea how many will be able to come.

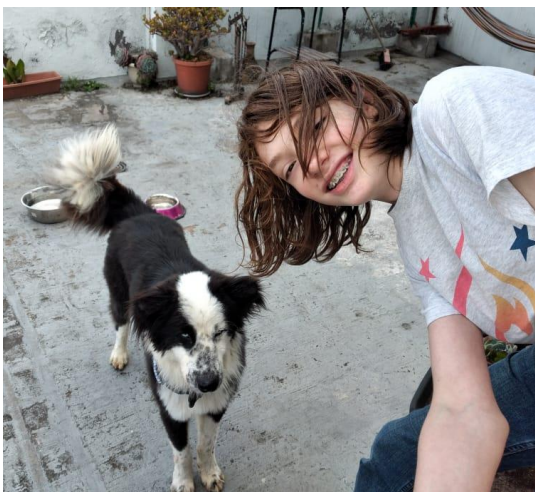
Cases of COVID-19 continue to increase here, and the health facilities are loaded to capacity. And it's anybody's guess when enough vaccines will be available to deal with the pandemic.

²I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
³For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.
⁴He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
⁵You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
⁶nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.
Psalm 91:2-6 ESV

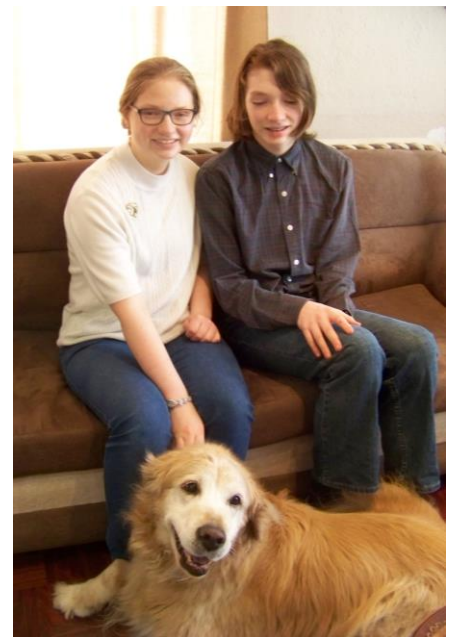
Family Update

Well, it's been a crazy year for our family, as well as for many others around the world. The kids' school, Alliance Academy International, went online in March of 2020 and is still 100% online. There doesn't look like any chance of getting back to the classroom this year.

And Anne is in her senior year. We are so proud of her. Besides having to handle the COVID crisis and not getting to see friends and classmates all year, she is learning



Nathan with Blue



Anne and Nathan with Samantha

to deal with her Diabetes Type 1 that was diagnosed in June. She's also dealing with continued problems in her left eye and we are praying for God's healing. We are also praying for God's guidance as she chooses a college in the U.S. without the opportunity to visit beforehand. She wants to study and teach math.

Nathan is in his 10th grade year online. He is growing fast and getting down to only a couple pair of pants that fit and one pair of shoes. We are going to have to get him out shopping soon! He has struggled more than Anne with his online schedule and is working very hard on learning organizational skills to keep track of his work.

We lost our precious pet, Samantha, in February. She was 12½ years old and had been with us for 10 years... traveling to Bogotá, Colombia with us and back. She will be missed.

A few weeks later, we were able to adopt another dog from an adoption fair. We named him Blue because of the color of his eyes. He is about a 4- or 5-year-old rescue. He is so sweet and fun. He's going to be great in our family!

He will also help keep Rick safe on his frequent hikes up the mountain behind our house. Crime has greatly increased during the pandemic.

Prayer & Praise

- Please pray that God would bless the restarting of our Quichua meetings, and that many would come to know Jesus and grow in their faith. Pray that the heavy rain we've been having will not disrupt the tent meetings.
- Please continue praying for the Old Testament translation project. It is all set up now on the special software, and more than three books have been completed in first draft.
- Please keep Anne and her health issues in your prayers as she finishes her senior year and prepares for college.



Cultural Closeup

We both had to renew our driver's licenses in January, after five years. We had to take a test to make sure that we understood the traffic laws in Ecuador, and in the pandemic it took us four months to get an appointment to take the test. It required quite a bit of study before we consistently scored high enough on the online practice test to risk taking the test itself.

One of the questions asked the meaning of the sign on the right. Can you guess what it means? No, it doesn't prohibit wheelbarrows! It means that human-powered vehicles are prohibited in that location. And this doesn't refer to bicycles, which have a completely different sign. Instead, it refers to vehicles which are pushed by humans, and these are extremely varied and very commonly seen in Quito. It often astonishes us to see wheeled carts with huge loads on them, including all kinds of food carts, or materials for recycling, being pushed up steep hills (which Quito has a lot of). Most of the people do not look very large or robust, but are obviously amazingly strong, and brave to be doing this on the main streets. The picture below gives an example, a food cart.



A human-powered vehicle being pushed uphill on a major thoroughfare

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Or go to www.mtw.org	
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→ Aschmann, Richard & Betty	
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Other sites: www.hcjb.org, www.wycliffe.org
Our newsletters: www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter.