

Aschmann Action

June 2023

⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

2 Corinthians 4:5-7

Our Home Ministry Assignment

We will be taking a year-long Home Ministry Assignment in the U.S. starting in mid June. We want to connect with you about the best time for a visit.

God has provided marvelously for our year in the U.S.

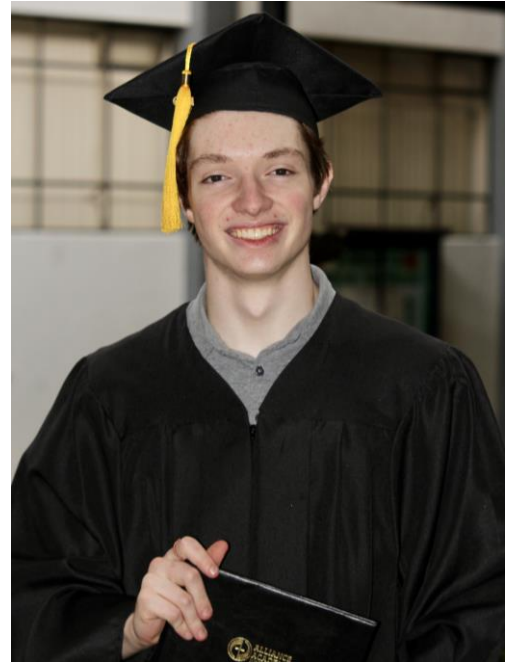
On the Ecuador side: Thank you for your prayers about a house sitter and someone to take care of our dog, Blue. Just a couple of weeks ago, God provided. A young pastoral intern with the English Fellowship church will be staying in our apartment with a roommate. He is happy about having a dog.

Also, we were able to sell our very old SUV. The mechanic ended up buying it because it needs lots of work. But he gave us a very decent price considering the condition. And then God gave us a very nice surprise. A missionary who is not in the country right now is loaning us his car for the remainder of our stay here.

And best of all: Nathan is finishing up the school year well and will graduate June 10th. He will be attending Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. That is also where Anne is attending.

On the U.S. side: God provided early on a vehicle we can use all year. Also, a couple in Kearney, Nebraska is letting us use a 3-bedroom apartment for the year, and even letting our daughter move in for the summer before we arrive in June!

Here are some phone numbers you can use to get in touch with us starting the middle of June: Rick 970-520-8477, Betty 970-520-8577. Or by email: rick@aschmann.net, betty@aschmann.net.



Pigulca Update

For many years, Segundo, our pastor in training, has been working with a group of Quichua-speaking people in the small town of Pigulca, about 2 hours north of Quito. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, he started with a children's ministry, with little interest from the adults. But now many of the adults are wanting to start meeting weekly, but there has been no place to meet. Years ago, they did the children's meetings in the small community center. However, it had fallen into disrepair. So, we proposed that we buy materials from our

mission account, and Segundo, with other members of the community, could do the labor to fix up the community center. This would help the entire community and give the believers a place to hold church services. The fix-it work took only a few weeks, as many members of the community did join in and help. It has been a great relationship-building project.

In addition, God may be opening another door in this area. The *Pan de Vida* (Bread of Life) ministry helps families build businesses with individual and community loans. They



Refurbished community center in use

have asked Segundo to disciple many of the families that are involved in the program.

Church-plant Update

We have been struggling with our fledgling church plant here in Quito. Families have been dropping out this past year for various reasons. Even though we have been keeping in touch with them, they haven't been coming to the Sunday services. We have decided to not continue the meetings while we are in the U.S. Since Segundo has been focusing on the Pigulca area where God seems to be opening doors, he will be free to take on this responsibility. We are disappointed about our Sunday meetings, but we know God has been at work in many lives through this ministry and we have done all we can to plant seeds and nurture these new Christians. God knows.



Special celebration in the community center

Old Testament Update

Daniel Sigla continues full force with the Old Testament translation into the Central Highland Quichua language. Since almost all the work is done online, Rick can continue to edit this during his time in the United States. Work is also moving forward on the Cofán Old Testament translation.

Prayer & Praise

- Please pray for our trip to the U.S. mid June and for all of our travels throughout the year to visit you all. And we thank God for his many provisions to get all this scheduled.
- Please pray for Nathan's transition to college and living in the United States. Also, pray for Anne's continuing struggles with her diabetes and her eye condition.
- We praise God for the open doors for ministry in Pigulca. Please pray for Segundo and his wife, Laura, as they continue the ministry to the Quichua-speaking people here in Ecuador. Also, continue to pray for Daniel Sigla in his work on the Old Testament translation.
- Please pray for safety for us, here and in the U.S., and also safety for our friends who are in Ecuador. Crime continues to run rampant.



Cultural Closeup

The president of Ecuador made an unexpected and unprecedented move last month. Guillermo Lasso instituted what is called the *muerte cruzada* or "crossed death" (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muerte_cruzada). This is a law that allows him to dissolve the National Assembly and start a process that will lead to snap elections for both the National Assembly and the presidency within the next few months. This has never been done before in the history of Ecuador. *Muerte cruzada* was actually put into the constitution by one of Lasso's opponents about 15 years ago, but the opponent never used it. This gives full power to the president, but only for a few months until the next elections must take place, then Lasso has to run again if he wants to stay in office. The National Assembly just had an election this year and the new congress took office in mid-May. Now, they are all out of a job and required to run for election again August 20th. Nobody knows exactly what this means, or what the president is allowed to do or not do, so the country is yet again in a state of unrest. But so far, no major protests. And Lasso has not announced yet if he will run for president again!

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