

Aschmann Action

December 2023

Merry Christmas from the Aschmann family!

Our traveling this autumn

Since we last wrote, wow, we have done a lot of traveling. In addition to two weeks in South Korea to visit James and his family, and a 7-day trip to the Dominican Republic for a Mission to the World retreat, we have visited churches and partners in 7 different states. Since the end of August, we have put more than 7,000 miles on that wonderful vehicle that God provided for us to use. We are looking forward to visiting most of you that we haven't had the opportunity to see this next year.

**The true light
that gives light
to every man was
coming into the world.**

John 1:9



At a Korean barbecue with James and his family

A visit to South Korea

We had the opportunity to visit Rick's son James and his family in South Korea in September. James is stationed there with the U.S. Air Force. We got to see grandkids, have time with James and Christina, sample much of the Korean cuisine and see some beautiful and historic places throughout the country. Rick and James even got to climb a mountain. It was quite the trip! Neither of us had ever been out of the Americas before.

Thank you!

Many of you have been asking how our support level is going since we are spending the year in the U.S. reporting to churches. We are currently in need of additional monthly pledges of about \$2300. However, many have been so helpful with special gifts and one-time gifts, that we have a healthy support account right now, so we don't need to make up much ground in that area. If you would like to join our partnership team or give a special Christmas gift, here are the ways you can donate →

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→ **Aschmann, Richard & Betty**

→ **Give**

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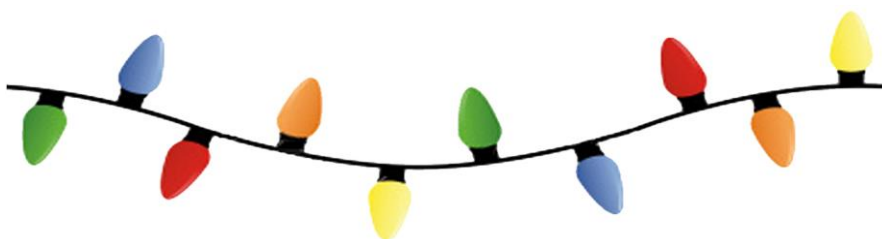
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Thanksgiving with Family

We had a very nice Thanksgiving with family. Anne and Nathan brought a couple of friends to our apartment for the week. And we spent the day with Betty's brother, Larry, and his wife and Betty's mom. This is the first time since 2012 that we have all had Thanksgiving together.

Update on Ecuador

The young man that is subletting our apartment in Ecuador seems to be enjoying his time with our dog, Blue. That is such a blessing to have someone caring for our house and dog.

Rick is still able to do some work on the Old Testament translations in between all the travels. And we keep in touch with Segundo, as well as hearing from our Quichua friends on occasion.

Prayer & Praise

- Praise that Anne and Nathan are both doing really well in college this year.
- Please continue praying for Segundo and Laura in starting up a possible church plant in Pigulca, for Daniel Sigla as he continues on the Old Testament translation for the Central Highland Quichua speaking people, and for the Cofán Old Testament translation team.
- Praise God that though we were in a car accident on Thanksgiving evening, none of the 6 people in our car was injured. The car sustained serious damage when we were rammed from the side while travelling at high-way speed and spun out. It was our children's car for college. Pray that it can be repaired or replaced soon.
- Praise and continued prayer for our safety in our travels during the rest of our Home Ministry Assignment.



Cultural Closeup

We have spent a lot of time on the road these past few months and we would like to tell you some differences we have noticed about driving, depending upon which country you are in.

In the United States, drivers mostly follow the rules of the road. For example, there is very little running of stoplights. However, there is a lot of very fast driving, compared to Ecuador: everyone goes 70+ miles per hour and if there is a collision, it is much more serious. And we've noticed that we really have to watch truckers now. There seem to be more that are not keeping to their lanes. Often it seems to be because they are using their cell phones despite the laws against this. And in the U.S., we use Google Maps to get around nearly everywhere.

In Ecuador, people kind of do their own thing about the rules of the road. For example, it is far too common in Quito for someone to cross three lanes of traffic, turning right from the left lane. Even though we don't get up to the speeds in Ecuador, like in the U.S., except on a few highways, motorcycles are a real hazard. It's hard not to hit a motorcyclist who has decided to pass you on the right when you are exiting a highway! We use Google Maps there, too. But we usually tell it not to say the names of the streets, because the English voice butchers the Spanish pronunciation.

In Korea, James or Christina drove us to most places. And we took the public transportation some. The driving seemed much more organized than Ecuador and the people followed the rules. There were some cases, however, where several lanes had to merge from the left to exit to the right. That took a while and seemed sort of disorganized. Also, I was completely discom-bobulated because there were flashing lights and sirens at random on the road. James said maybe it was to warn people to drive safely. I just know that I was always looking for the ambulance or police car that needed to come through...and none ever did.

Google Maps is not allowed in Korea. We could find locations with it, but anytime we tried to use it to navigate, a message appeared saying "No route found". There were two other map programs we could use, but only one of them had the information in English.

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