

Aschmann Action

September 2006

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Psalm 119:18



Former and current Televozandes personnel at a farewell party for John Gowan. John is the tall one.

Betty: I thought I'd give you the update on the major change in my ministry with HCJB. Televozandes, the television production studio, is moving — to another country! It will be closed here in Quito in the next few months, and will be opening the beginning of 2007 in Guatemala City. Needless to say, neither Rick nor I feel the call to ministry in Guatemala, so my time with Televozandes is ending. August was a tough month, as I said goodbye to some good friends in the TV ministry, including the director, John Gowan. Televozandes has been busy dubbing VeggieTales into Spanish, and will continue to do so from Guatemala. Some of the voice actors are living here in Quito, so one of our Ecuadorian production people will stay here and oversee that part of the VeggieTales recordings. The rest will be done in Guatemala. I will be helping take down video editing suites over the next few months.

It is a bit sad, but not as sad as I expected, since the Lord has given me so many other focuses and ministries

right now. First, obviously, is my family. A three year old and a one year old are keeping me really busy. Nathan, especially, has an energy level way above mine. He's just learning to walk, but can go faster than me. Also, I'm still learning Quichua and trying to converse much more with the ladies in the Quichua churches. And, I will probably be helping with HCJB's Christian Center of Communications, a Bible and broadcasting college here in Quito. Several years ago, I taught video production classes. I may also help with the maintenance of the video equipment. Please pray for God's wisdom in knowing exactly how, and how much to get involved with the CCC.

(For more info: hcjb.org/education/ministries/christian_center_of_communications.html)



Rick: In August I started a Bible study in Quichua for the leadership of the *Sembradores de Jesucristo* church here in Quito. We are using the Quichua translation of a book called *Am I Good Enough: Learning to Live by God's Grace*, written by Rich Ramsay, an MTW missionary who works in Chile. The title in Quichua is more like *How good do I have to be?*, which is also what the Spanish translation is entitled. I am translating the book into Quichua as we go, and handing out the pages in loose leaf format. This Bible study has three main purposes:

- To teach about God's grace, which is a concept which many of the Quichuas struggle with, since their culture is strongly oriented to community and performance. But of course, it doesn't matter what culture you come from: grace is a concept so foreign to our failed human understanding that only God's Holy Spirit can open our eyes to see and understand it.
- To encourage the men to develop the habit of reading God's word on a daily basis, in their own mother tongue, which is Quichua.
- As a class to promote great reading fluency among these men, who, though they have all had some schooling, are not in the habit of reading very much at all, and in some cases have never learned some very basic writing skills.

In our first class, I gave a list of simple rules to help them do better in reading out loud in church. One of the gentlemen, upon seeing the list, said, "All of those start with a capital letter!" I said, "Yes, every sentence is supposed to start with a capital letter." Then, when we got into the Bible study, one of the men said, "What is that mark there?" I said,



“It’s a colon.” He then said, “And what does it mean?” Later on, I explained that they needed to write the answer to each question in the study workbook they each received.

“Where do we write the answer?”

“In the space below the question.”

“This question doesn’t have a space below it.”

“That’s not a question.”

“How do we know that?”

“It doesn’t have question marks around it. All questions are marked with question marks, like this.” And I wrote on the board:

¿ ... ? (In Quichua we follow the Spanish convention.)

These are the leaders of a going Quichua church. They are intelligent men, but they haven’t had the opportunity for much education, and the little that they have had was in an environment that didn’t encourage them to ask questions if they didn’t understand something. This gives you a bit of an idea of the challenge we face.

We see this type of study as a model for a teaching method we would like to see repeated in many other Quichua churches. Until the Quichua church leaders improve in their reading skills so that they can effectively take in God’s Word personally, the Quichua church will remain dependent on outside teaching and training, which will never be adequate for their needs.

Language quiz
Spanish has five vowel sounds, which are spelled “a, e, i, o, u”, and pronounced “ah, eh, ee, oh, oo”.
Quichua has only three of these vowel sounds, “a, i, u”, which gives them some serious trouble when trying to read in Spanish.
How many vowel sounds does English have? (Not letters, sounds.) Hint: more than Spanish. The answer will be in the next newsletter!

Please be praying for our support needs. Our monthly support has dropped unexpectedly in the last few months. Because of this our account balance has been dropping, and this makes the folks at Mission to the World extremely nervous. Please pray that God would meet this need in a timely manner so that our work here in Ecuador is not disrupted.

Other Prayer & Praise

- Pray for this Bible study, that God would bless it and allow it to accomplish its threefold purpose. Pray that God would open the students’ eyes so that they may see wonderful things in God’s Word, as the Psalmist prayed, and truly understand his marvelous grace.
- Continue praying that God would help us to distribute the Quichua magazine more widely, for enthusiastic distributors of the magazine among the Quichuas, and for effective contacts all along the way. The sales have been brisk whenever people see the magazine, but our need is for others to help us make it known more widely.
- Pray for the television department’s move to Guatemala, that they will have an even more effective ministry there. Pray also for Betty’s new responsibilities in the Christian Center of Communications.
- Continue praying for stamina for our team in all of our ministries. We have never been busier, and it’s easy to get overextended, and we need wisdom in pacing ourselves!




Cultural Closeup

Betty: More volcanic ash is covering parts of Ecuador.

This time, however, Quito has not been hit directly. A volcano south of Quito, called Tungurahua (pronounced toong-goo-RAH-wah), has been erupting again. It has been quite active for about 6 years, but has gotten worse in the past month or so. Areas around the volcano have been evacuated, covered with ash and mud slides. Several people have been killed. It is not fun living around there. A couple centimeters of ash quickly develop into tons of trash, since ash is so heavy. And it’s recommended to wear masks outside, as the ash is horrible for respiratory systems. Quito has been affected somewhat. There was hardly any fresh produce in the stores for a week or so, since this area was a major producer. You can pray for those greatly affected by Tungurahua.

If you want to see news about this eruption on the Internet, a couple of sites we found were: volcanodiscovery.com/volcano-tours/tungurahua_updates.html and news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/5319818.stm.

E-mail Address:	RASchmann@mtwsa.org
Personal web page:	Aschmann.net/Rick
Quichua web page:	Quichua.net/Q/Ec/English.html
Mailing Address in Ecuador:	Rick & Betty Aschmann Casilla 17-08-8403 Quito, Ecuador South America
Home phone:	(011)-593-2-225-2198
Virtual U.S. phone:	972-535-4356
Rick’s Cell phone:	(011)-593-9-500-2825
Betty’s Cell phone:	(011)-593-9-419-5754
Mission Address:	Mission to the World PO Box 116284 Atlanta, GA 30368-6284
Mission web sites:	www.mtw.org www.mtwsa.net www.hcjb.org www.televozandes.org www.wycliffe.org



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