

Aschmann Action

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² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

Isaiah 9:2, 6

Rick: I mentioned in several previous newsletters that we are trying to do a lot of distribution of the Quichua magazine at Quichua music festivals. The Quichuas love music, and many of them have most of hymns in the Quichua hymnbook memorized, and often know the number, even if they don't know how to read. This is because they often dedicate the majority of their church services to singing hymns. This still leaves time for a sermon, since their church services often last several hours!

Most of the Quichua hymns, at least in the Central Highlands area,* are not translations of Spanish or English or other European languages, but hymns composed from scratch by native Quichua speakers, using their own traditional Andean melodies and musical instruments, which include many kinds of flutes, and a tiny guitar-like instrument called a *charango*, among others. Of course, they also use guitars, keyboards, and sound systems nowadays! To hear one of their songs, go to: Quichua.net/Q/Ec/Imbabura-JatunUshaita.mp3.

Please continue praying for our support needs, as we mentioned in our last newsletter. We are low for several reasons. We have lost some support in the last six months or so. Also, our monthly ministry expenses are higher right now, because the ministry to the Quichua people here in Ecuador is growing so well. That is a blessing, but we're also looking to God to provide the funds for the expanding ministry. God has already brought in some additional support, so that slump in our account has started to reverse, for which we are very grateful, but there is still a need for our account to maintain a healthy level.

If you like to read a color copy of this newsletter on the Internet instead of, or in addition to, receiving this printed copy by snail mail, and would like to be notified by e-mail each time a new one is posted, let me know at RASchmann@mtwsa.org.

Often Quichua music festivals will last several days, usually all evening, and the last several that I attended had an attendance of between 3,000 and 5,000 people, in a big auditorium. Often they will include performances by choirs from many different Quichua churches. Usually Quichua choirs are composed entirely of women, with an accompanying orchestra composed entirely of men. The picture shows a combined choir from several churches that performed at the Quichua music festival that was given to commemorate HCJB World Radio's 75th anniversary.



These music festivals have proven to be an effective way to distribute the Quichua magazine and the other books we have produced. Even so, our big need continues to be for distributors to help us in the distribution, and we would ask for your prayers for wisdom in knowing how to find people to do this.

* See the map on the Quichua website: Quichua.net/Q/Ec/English.html. Scroll down to the bottom to see the English key.

Other Prayer & Praise

- Continue praying for the Quichua men's Bible study, that God would bless it and allow it to accomplish its purposes, and that the students who have not been able to attend will be able to start coming again.
- 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.
- Continue praying for the television department's move to Guatemala, that they will have an even more effective ministry there, and for Betty's new responsibilities in the Christian Center of Communications.



Cultural Closeup

Betty: We have filled you in on Ecuadorian Christmas traditions in the past— traditions which are rapidly becoming more like the U.S. all the time.

The main difference is that the big meal is usually Christmas Eve, really late at night, between 10 pm and midnight. But we have never mentioned the Quichua Christmas traditions. There is a reason for that: Christmas is not typically one of the big holidays for the Quichua people. Those that do celebrate it, have adopted most of the Ecuadorian customs.

The big holidays for the Quichuas are the Day of the Dead, which is celebrated November 2nd and Carnival, which is about 7 weeks before Easter. The Day of the Dead was an important holiday even before the Spanish came to Ecuador and was typically celebrated by taking food to dead relatives to feed their spirits and keep them from wandering. Nowadays, the Christians celebrate it by having a sort of memorial day for their relatives and having a family picnic at the cemetery. Carnival is a traditional Catholic holiday, the same as Mardi Gras. It's the last big fling before Ash Wednesday and Lent. It's typically celebrated by just having parties and water fights. In the villages, the water fights even include more than water— eggs, flour, etc.



Our two sweet children are growing up!

Have a very Merry Christmas in whatever way you celebrate!

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Answer to Language quiz

In our last newsletter I gave the following 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.

Answer:

It is true that English is only written with 5 vowel letters, just like Spanish, or 7, if you include w and y. However, remember that I said *sounds*, not *letters*. English has a lot more vowel sounds than that!

In the main varieties of English, there are anywhere between 13 and 15 different vowel sounds. In my own English I have 14, as shown by the vowel sounds in the following words (beside each word I have given its typical dictionary pronunciation):

beet /bēt/	cut /küt/	bite /bit/
bit /bit/	cot /kät/	bout /bout/
bait /bät/	caught /köt/	boy /boi/
bet /bēt/	coke /kök/	
bat /bät/	cook /kōök/	
	kook /kōök/	

(Actually, there are even more vowels than this, but these are the ones I get in ordinary one-syllable words with no complications.)

A lot of Americans only have 13 vowels, since they pronounce "cot" and "caught" exactly the same.

British English has 15 vowels, since for them the following words don't rhyme:

father /fäthər/	balm /bäm/
bother /böthər/	bomb /böm/

All these vowel sounds are one reason Spanish speakers have such a hard time pronouncing English!