

Aschmann Action

March 2007

Blessed is the one who **reads** the words of this prophecy...

Revelation 1:3

Rick: As we have mentioned in previous letters, one of the principal problems in the Quichua church is that many of them cannot read well. Several months back, in conversation with Ricardo Chacaguasay, the pastor of the 500-member El Tejar church in downtown Quito, the question of literacy came up. He said, "Maybe 40 percent of my congregation does not read well. Could you help us set up a literacy program?" We said yes, and the program should begin in April. Before we can begin, I will need to prepare the literacy materials in Quichua. Fortunately we can use some materials done many years ago, with only minor adaptations, but this is another of the things that is keeping me busy these days. It will be primarily adult literacy, and will be held at night in downtown Quito in a neighborhood where under other circumstances we would never consider going at night; so please be praying for our safety, especially since most of those helping me with the program will be the missionary ladies on our team.

Please continue praying for our support needs. The Lord has continued to bring in additional support, for which we are very grateful, but there is still a ways to go! We have recently recalculated our needs, and **we are currently short \$1,900 per month plus \$4000 in one-time gifts** to bring our account up to a healthy balance. A good part of the reason for this need is that our monthly ministry expenses are higher right now, because the ministry to the Quichua people here in Ecuador is growing so well.

Home

Ministry

Assignment

Who: The Aschmann family

Where: United States of America

When: Late August 2007 – Early May 2008

Why: To visit and report to all our churches, supporters and friends

Details: Late August – mid November: Southeastern U.S.

Mid November – January: Nebraska & Colorado

February – early May: Southeastern U.S.

Please let us know when you would like us to come visit you!

What else are we up to? Towards the end of March we plan to spend two weeks living in a Quichua village called Colta in the province of Chimborazo. This trip has two purposes:

1) The main purpose of the trip is simply to practice Quichua, so that both Betty and I can improve our fluency in the language. This is much better for this purpose than living in Quito, so we're hoping to see a lot of progress.

2) The second purpose will be to go to all the different markets in the area and sell Quichua magazines and other literature. We want to encourage as many Quichuas as we can to read and to help them see the value of the printed word in their language, so as to encourage them more and more to read God's Word in their heart language.

Other Prayer & Praise

- Pray for our new literacy program at the El Tejar church, that it would be a successful and effective program. Pray also for the safety of our team.
- Pray for our time in Chimborazo province, that Betty and I would see significant improvement in Quichua fluency, sell lots of books and magazines, and build new and fruitful relationships.
- 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 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

Rick: Well, for a change we thought I should write the Cultural Closeup this time. Since I came to Ecuador in 1998, one of my hobbies has been mountain climbing. Quite a few Saturdays I take off and climb a mountain with some of my buddies. When my older kids were still with us they climbed, too. James turned into a serious mountain climber, and climbed some mountains that are beyond me!

If you like mountain climbing, Ecuador is probably the best country in the world to live in, because it has the most easily accessible world-class mountain-climbing opportunities of any country in the world, and it's relatively inexpensive. The best known is Cotopaxi, also the world's highest active volcano, at 19,400 feet. From Quito it's a three-hour drive to a parking lot at 15,000 feet on its slopes. From there, if the weather is good, and you aren't prone to altitude sickness, it's a 45-minute climb up to the "refuge," a kind of rustic hotel at 16,000 feet. If you're just interested in a little out-ing, you can get a cup of chocolate and a bowl of soup there. The young man who manages the place told me that every weekend some 800 people do just that, many of them with clothing quite inadequate for the weather (even the occasional young lady in high heels!). If you are a serious mountain climber, and plan to attempt to reach the summit, you sleep there until midnight (\$8 a night for locals, \$17 for foreign tourists, which gets you a bunk with a mattress: bring your own sleeping bag). Then it's about a six-hour hike to the top of the mountain (accompanied by a qualified guide, unless you're crazy), which you reach around sunrise, unless you get blisters or altitude sickness. (I don't know of anyone who takes oxygen tanks on these climbs in Ecuador.) I recently tried to make the summit again (after failing a time or two previously) in the company of some friends from our Ecuadorian church, but the altitude got me just above 18,000 feet, and I had to turn around. My friends all made it to the top, with the other guide. But the weather was perfect and the view out of this world, so it was



Tired and woozy Rick. The glacier at the top of the cliff is more than 100 feet thick!

worth it!

Nathan, now 20 months, is clearly going to be a mountain climber. We recently found him at the top of our wrought-iron security door, which he had climbed without our knowledge or assistance (we had no idea he would even try it). He was holding on with one hand and playing with the light! We thought we'd teach him a lesson and let him panic about how to get down, but instead he carefully and calmly found his footholds and safely got down all by himself. That's my boy!



Nathan and his more cautious sister Anne.

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MISSION
to the
WORLD

Mission web sites:

www.mtw.org

www.mtwsa.net

www.hcjb.org

www.wycliffe.org

To see a color copy of this newsletter, go to aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter.html.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Ecuador in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am writing you on behalf of Rick and Betty thanking you for your faithful support of their ministry both in prayer and financially. MTW’s Team Ecuador thanks you for your generosity and constancy in your support God’s work of strengthening indigenous churches and training Quichua leaders here in Ecuador through the Aschmanns!

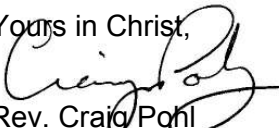
I am writing you at this time to both reiterate the strategic role that Rick and Betty are playing in the advancement of God’s work in Ecuador and also to place some special needs before you. As the only career missionaries specifically assigned to lead our linguistic work among the Quichua at this time, Rick’s efforts are key to the preparation of new discipleship and literacy materials in Quichua, training other missionaries to be more conversant in the indigenous languages, and training new Ecuadorian leaders. Betty is a support to the whole team and continues to be used by the Lord in the area of Christian television production.

At the current time, I need to bring two significant financial needs to your attention:

- 1) **On-going Ministry Support:** Again we thank so many of you for your continual sacrifice and generosity in this Kingdom work! However, with increased field and living expenses, as well as a few partners who have not been able to continue their support, Rick and Betty need at least \$1,900 in additional monthly pledges to fulfill their monthly budget requirements this year. Would you or your congregation consider making a new pledge or perhaps increasing your current commitment to the Aschmann’s work?
- 2) **Low Account Balance:** Mission to the World has long had a policy requiring missionaries to maintain a support account balance of at least \$8,000 (representing about one month’s expenses). We estimate that the Aschmanns will need one-time gifts of at least \$4,000 to help rebuild this healthy, sustainable balance in their account.

We trust that you will place these two needs before the Lord in prayerful consideration. Thank you for your continued support of God’s work in Ecuador. May the Good Shepherd continue to lead and guide us all this year as He has so faithfully in the past!

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Craig Pohl
Team Leader, MTW Ecuador

Rick & Betty Aschmann #010107	
Serving with MTW in Quito, Ecuador	
<input type="checkbox"/> Allow me to pray for the Aschmanns regularly by receiving their prayer letter.	Name: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to support the Aschmann’s ministry at \$ _____ per month. (Enclosed is my first check.)	Address: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is a one-time gift of \$ _____.	City/State/Zip: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me information about electronic bank drafts.	Phone: _____
	E-mail: _____
	Make checks payable to Mission to the World.
	Mail to: PO Box 116284; Atlanta, GA 30368-6284
	Memo Line: Rick & Betty Aschmann #010107