

# Aschmann Action

April 2008

*Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.*

*Psalms 116:15*

Rick: This newsletter will be a little different: I'd like to dedicate it to my dad. He and my mom were also missionaries and Bible translators for a minority language group, and they have been a tremendous inspiration and model for me through the years. He went to be with the Lord just last month, on his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday, and we were able to attend his memorial service in Longmont, Colorado. It was a tremendous service, remembering Dad, what he meant to us, and what the Lord accomplished through him. Several people told us afterwards, "I've never been to a memorial service like this." My thought was, "Neither have I!" It was bittersweet: we know we'll see him in glory, but we sure miss him!

My dad was born in the little town of Port Chester, New York, of parents who immigrated from Latvia. In the home he grew up speaking both English and Latvian, which probably



Herman Peter Aschmann

February 18, 1914 - February 18, 2008



Dad with some of the Totonaco people

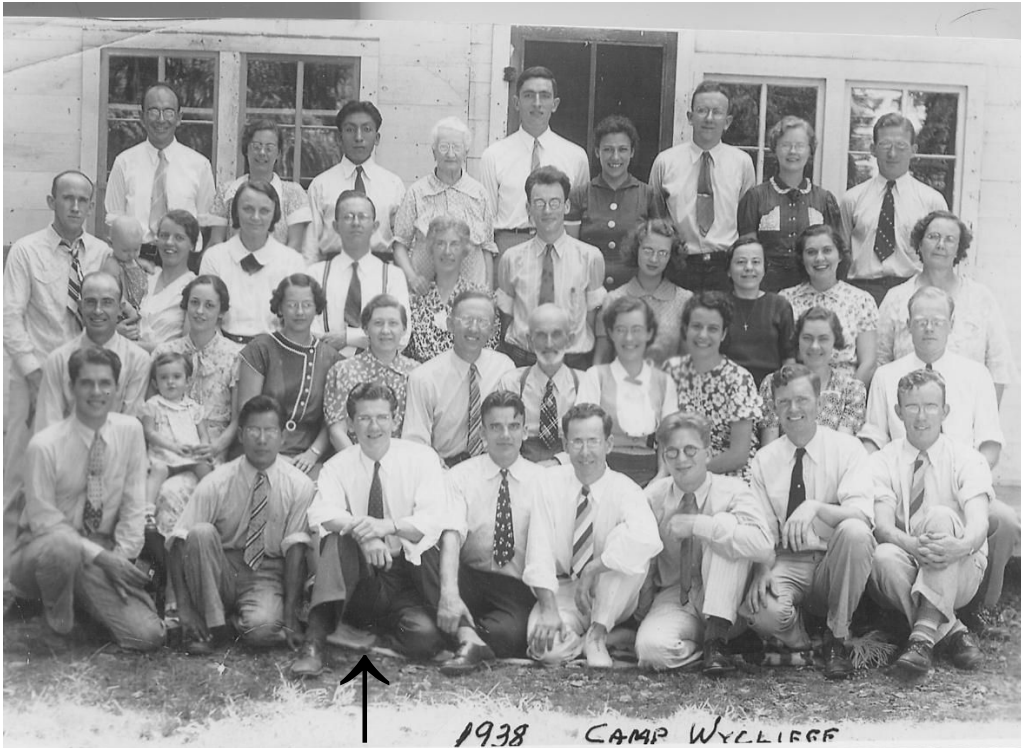
helped him in learning other languages later on. He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior while still a teenager, and attended Moody Bible Institute from 1934 to 1938. In 1938 he attended Camp Wycliffe in northwestern Arkansas, which eventually became Wycliffe Bible Translators. Soon afterwards, he began working among the Totonaco Indians in Mexico, with the goal of translating the New Testament into their language.

In 1940 he met Bessie Dawson, who had also felt God's call to work among unreached language groups, and had come down to Mexico to work. They were married in 1941, and started having their six children, of whom I was the last.

My parents spent many years living among the Totonaco people. In 1959 the

## Prayer & Praise

- Pray for the country of Ecuador. Some political complications with neighboring Colombia have made tensions higher. Pray for the continued safety of the Christians in the country.
- Pray for us as we finish our Home Ministry Assignment. We plan to return to Quito mid-June. We are trusting that God will provide the remaining \$1,030 in pledges per month for us to be able to return on schedule.
- Praise God for safe travel and a reliable vehicle during our Home Ministry Assignment thus far.



Dad, studying to be a Bible translator

Highland Totonaco New Testament was published. After this they learned two other related languages in the Totonaco family, and translated God's word for them also. Two more New Testaments were published, and my dad also revised the Highland Totonaco New Testament, with the help of Felipe Ramos, a very capable Totonaco speaker who has had a remarkable ministry to his people by means of radio. That revised New Testament was published in 2000, when my dad was 86 years old.

His obituary can be seen at: <http://obit.howemortuary.com/obitdisplay.html?id=507136&listing=Current>.



## Cultural Closeup

Betty: Going to Rick's dad's memorial service made me think of how funerals work in Ecuador. We have attended several over the years on the mission field. After someone dies, the funeral and burial are usually planned right away—within a day or so, since the bodies are not embalmed. The law actually requires burial within 24 hours except with special permission. Sometimes the family will get permission to wait an extra day if people are traveling from a distance to attend, but not more than that. Immediately after the person dies, the family holds a wake. This allows friends who can't attend the funeral service an opportunity to visit the funeral home or church at any time and express their sympathy personally. Cremation is becoming more common, but is still not the standard.

Rick: I once attended a Quichua funeral in Quito. It was very different from funerals here in the U.S. The congregation walked a long way (at least a mile) in a procession with the casket, from the church where the wake took place to the cemetery. Many of the people were weeping and wailing in loud voices, reminiscent of the biblical scene at the death of Jairus' daughter in Mark 5:36-43. My friend José Manuel asked me about that, if that was proper. I said, "Well, it's okay to weep, because we're sad that they're gone, and we miss them, but if they were believers, we don't need to grieve like those who have no hope, like it says in 1 Thessalonians 4:13, because we know that we will see them again." (We wept at my dad's memorial, but mostly because of all the good memories!) Most of the people at the funeral were members of evangelical churches, but as we have mentioned in previous letters, many of them don't have a really clear understanding of the precious Bible doctrines of salvation by grace alone, or assurance of salvation.

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	<b>PO Box 116284</b>
	<b>Atlanta, GA 30368-6284</b>
Mission web sites:	<b>MISSION to the WORLD</b>
	<a href="http://www.mtw.org">www.mtw.org</a> <a href="http://www.hcib.org">www.hcib.org</a>
	<a href="http://www.mtwsa.net">www.mtwsa.net</a> <a href="http://www.wycliffe.org">www.wycliffe.org</a>

This newsletter can be seen on the Internet at:  
[www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter](http://www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter).



April 2008

Dear Friends of Rick and Betty Aschmann:

Warmest greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As Mission to the World's international director to Latin America/Africa, I have the privilege of working closely with missionaries like Rick and Betty who serve in places large and small around the world. Rick and Betty have a unique work among the Quichua Indian people of Ecuador, and I, together with them, am grateful for your support of their family and ministry.

Many of you are aware that as the U.S. dollar weakens in value around the world, many of our missionaries are having a difficult time keeping up with the support needs of their ministries. Rick and Betty have worked diligently during their current Home Ministry Assignment to visit with churches and individuals, share what the Lord is doing through their ministry and in their lives, and raise the much-needed support for their work in Ecuador. Rick and Betty, as well as their children Anne and Nathan, are eager to return to Quito and their work in Christian leadership training, Quichua Bible promotion, and Quichua literature promotion. In order to return by June 14, Rick and Betty still need an additional \$1,030 in monthly pledges.

Would you prayerfully consider helping them return more quickly to Ecuador by making a monthly pledge or increasing your current monthly giving to their ministry? I can assure you, it would be a source of joy and thanksgiving to the Lord of Hosts—both from the Aschmanns and from those they serve. If you have any questions about their ministry or this specific request, please do not hesitate to contact me at 404.326.1917 or at [bill.yarbrough@mtw.org](mailto:bill.yarbrough@mtw.org). Should God lead you to help in this way, please return the response form below to MTW. Thank you so very much for your support of the global mission movement and for praying about this specific request.

Yours because of the gospel of grace,

Bill Yarbrough  
International Director Latin America/Africa

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**The Lord providing, I'd like to help Rick and Betty Aschmann (#10107) by:**

- Making a new monthly pledge of: (Circle one) \$100    \$50    \$35    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Increasing our current monthly giving from \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Enclosing a one-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contributions may be mailed to Mission to the World; 1600 North Brown Rd; Atlanta, GA 30043**