

# Aschmann Action

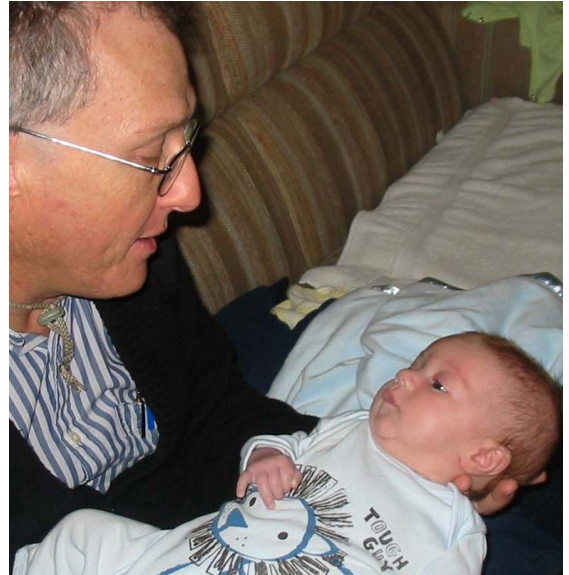
April 2009

I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

Jeremiah 31:13b

Rick: It's been kind of a crazy year for the Aschmanns. Between March of 2008 and March of 2009, we attended two funerals and two weddings of close family members, and had a grandson born. Talk about an emotional roller coaster! We attended my dad's funeral last March in Colorado, Heidi's wedding in April in Florida, James's wedding in September in Washington state, and John's funeral in March in Alabama. And Heidi and Jason had a baby boy on January 16.

Our dear friend and missionary colleague of many years, Dave Strumbeck, was able to fly down from Delaware to do John's funeral, which was very special. And we got to spend some time with our new grandson before and after the funeral, which was a delight, sort of the bitter with the very sweet! Please forgive us if we go a little overboard with the pictures!



Proud grandpa



proud little aunt and uncle with watchful mom



That young woman can't be a grandmother!



Isaac Lee Barron, 2½ months old  
(Isaac means laughter!)



happy dad

There is a lot to tell this month, and several very

important prayer requests:

Betty has made great progress in learning the video equipment, and is now ready to dive into production. One of her first projects was to make a "video book" of one of our simplest Quichua reading books, the story of Bartimaeus. This is to encourage new readers by having a "read along" book. Probably in a few weeks we will be able to post it to our website so y'all can look at it.

Her next big project (and mine, too) will be an Evangelism Explosion training course for the Quichuas, following an oral approach. The course will be given by a couple with extensive experience as Bible translators in Guatemala. I will be involved in translating the

## Prayer & Praise

- Pray for the Evangelism Explosion course, that all of the potential glitches will *not* occur, and that it will prove to be a very effective tool for encouraging the Quichua churches in doing evangelism. Pray for all of the translation and video details, that they would all go well.
- Thanks so much for praying for our family's health. In spite of the tremendous stress we have been under because of John's death and all of the arrangements for shipping his remains across the country, and planning the funeral at long distance, we have not been sick all that much. However, we are still battling the exhaustion that several knowledgeable counselors have warned us that we can expect for a while, and we would ask for continued prayer as we get back into the many ministry opportunities we see as priorities right now.
- Pray for our team as we go through a significant crisis (I can't give details), and especially for our team leader, Craig Pohl, who has been carrying an extra heavy load for many months. We praise God that our team is very united and supportive of each other especially during this difficult time.
- Pray for *Paúl Chiriboga* in his first attempt at living in a Quichua village this summer. He will be learning Quichua and helping with various projects in agriculture and Bible teaching.

materials into Quichua, and Betty will be helping with the filming and video editing, so that we can make available DVDs of the course for the Quichuas to use.

One very exciting thing for us has been a young Ecuadorian man who wants to minister to the Quichuas. For many years we had been praying for an agriculture missionary to work with the Quichuas, and had mentioned it to various farmer friends and relatives, but nothing came of it. Then several months ago *Paúl Chiriboga*, a member of our Spanish-speaking church, came to visit us, explaining his desire to go live in a Quichua village to minister to them and help with agriculture. He has had some experience in short-term missions with the Quichuas, speaks English fluently, and is graduating with his master's in agriculture this month. Despite his family and friends thinking he's crazy (since with his advanced degree he could probably get a really good job), and other road blocks, he remains focused on the ministry, and God is opening doors.



### Cultural Closeup

Betty: The need for agricultural experts like our friend *Paúl* is very great in Ecuador. The volcanic soil is very fertile, and many agriculture-based businesses are taking off in recent years. But the family farm, which still represents the majority, is suffering. In the 1960s and 1970s the Ecuadorian government took land away from the large landowners and distributed it to Quichuas who had been working as serfs on the land. Many did not really know how to raise crops. The lack of simple things like crop rotation and fertilizer exhausted the land quickly. In addition, the land has continued to be divided up among the children, and a few generations later, a family has such a small plot that it is insufficient to support them.



Subdivided fields on a very steep hillside

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