

Merry Christmas  
from

## Aschmann Action

December 2010

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.  
Luke 2:1-7 ESV



### *Never a Dull Moment*

Rick: Life never slows down for us, and we continue to have many irons in the fire. (See Praise and Prayer below.) God is allowing us to be involved in lots of exciting things right now, and we mainly need wisdom to know how to balance priorities. The two Bible translation projects continue to go forward, though the Central Highland project will not get off the ground again until January, which we don't mind too much, since we are busy enough as it is!

### *A New Car and a New Dog*

Thanks so much for praying for us about the loss of our dog and the damage to our car in the robbery. God has been very good to us: The car was essentially totaled, so our missionary insurance coop gave us enough to buy another, slightly newer vehicle (a 1997 Explorer). As for a dog, we went to the local animal shelter, and all fell in love with a Golden Retriever and Labrador cross that we call Sandy. He is full grown, but unfortunately acts like a huge puppy, so training him has been a bit of a challenge! But he's great with the kids.



### *Video Production*

Betty: Since returning to Ecuador at the end of August, I have been editing videos of the "Growing Together in Christ" conferences that our Ecuador team held this summer. It is wonderful material, encouraging our churches here in Ecuador to grow, plant new churches,

Mission to the World allowed us to return to the field because of the many generous one-time gifts people have given over the past year, for which we are very grateful. However, we are still lacking about \$900 per month in monthly pledges, and the mission has asked us to continue to try to raise that amount. If we cannot, we may be required to take a pay cut or return to the U.S. sooner than expected for another Home Ministry Assignment. If you are already planning to give a special gift yearly (or however often you like), please let us know so that we can put it down as a pledge. That will help us stay in Ecuador and dedicate ourselves to the work God has called us to do here. We appreciate your prayers and support so much. Please send pledges or support to:

**Mission to the World**  
**PO Box 116284**

**Atlanta, GA 30368-6284**

**Rick and Betty Aschmann, account #10107**

and send missionaries, but it has been taking quite a bit of work. It is about 20 hours of video to sort through and edit. I was a bit discouraged until I talked to a young leader in one of the churches. He was so excited about the videos I edited in March and is using them for his Sunday School class. God encouraged me to continue with the hours of work to finish this August recording.

## *Prayer & Praise*

- Please pray for our team members, the Pohls and the McMahans as they are home over the holidays to deal with family sickness and deaths.
- Please pray for us, as we try to hold down the fort in Quito without the Pohls and the McMahans, especially with the many ongoing activities of the *Creceer Juntos en Cristo* (Growing Together in Christ) initiative mentioned in our last newsletter, many of which will now be my responsibility (Rick).
- Continue praying for all of our projects and ministries:
  - The Central Highland Quichua Old Testament translation, as Daniel and the rest of our team continue working on it starting again in January, that it would be done quickly and well.
  - The reprinting of the Imbabura Quichua Bible, with corrections Segundo and I have been finding over the years, that this can happen soon and be done expeditiously and well.
  - The continued training of the leaders of the Star of Bethlehem church in Paltapamba.
  - The new *Creceer Juntos en Cristo* (Growing Together in Christ) initiative with the Presbyterian churches here in Ecuador.
  - Paúl Chiriboga in his ministry in Mondayacu.
- Please pray for Betty as she continues editing and producing various DVDs for the *Creceer Juntos en Cristo* (Growing Together in Christ) initiative.
- Continue praying for our safety in an increasingly crime-ridden city.
- Continue praying for our remaining needed monthly support.



## *Cultural Closeup*

**Betty:** The Ecuadorian government held a nationwide census at the end of November. This is the first one I have ever been involved in during my 18 years in Ecuador. Everyone was required to stay home on Sunday, November 28 from 7 AM to 5 PM. Church services had to be cancelled or take place on Saturday night, and businesses closed. They enforced it thoroughly. Armed military guards patrolled the streets to stop anyone walking or driving without permission. The only ones granted a pass to leave were medical personnel needed at the hospitals and police. All national flights were shut down. If someone had already bought an international airline ticket, you could call a certain taxi service that had permission to take people to the airport or a hospital. Everyone else was confined to the house.

Then, starting at 7 AM, a high school or college-age person came to the house to survey the family. They asked questions about the type and condition of house you live in, family statistics and education level, employment information, and various other things.

Our children had Thursday and Friday vacation days for Thanksgiving. For months, we had been planning a family vacation to the hot springs in the town of Papallacta. Our plan had been to go on Friday and return on Sunday. We were required to cut our vacation short one day. When we found out about the census (we had about three weeks' notice), Anne asked me if we had to cancel our vacation. I said, "No, just cut it short." To put it in perspective, we talked about how Mary and Joseph had to travel all the way to Bethlehem when Mary was so pregnant, and Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. I guess staying home for the day isn't such a big sacrifice after all.

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		<b>WORLD</b>

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[www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter](http://www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter).