

¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.
¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." James 4:14-15 NIV

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Summer Visitors

We are now approaching the end of summer here in Quito. "Summer" (June, July, and August) actually means the dry season, since the temperature hardly changes year round. Summer usually means short visits by teams from U.S. churches, and those have been keeping us busy for the last month or so.

Several of our MTW Ecuador Partner churches participated. Pictured are members of River Oaks Presbyterian of Germantown, TN and Christ Presbyterian of Olive Branch, MS. Others participating were Faith Presbyterian of Birmingham, AL and First Presbyterian of Enterprise, AL.



Our Quito team facilitated and interpreted in four different vacation Bible schools or English clubs held by visiting teams from U.S. churches. together with members of churches here in Quito. It is always so exciting to see God working in little hearts!

Big Change of Plans!

It was right in the middle of the last vacation Bible school that we were told by our international director for MTW that we were going to have to return to the U.S. for a year-long, unscheduled Home Ministry Assignment. As you know if you have been reading our newsletters, our support has been low for quite a while. Recently several of our supporting churches have gone through financial crises, largely due to the difficult economic situation in the U.S., and had to cut way back on their missions budget. This left us with a critical shortfall in monthly income, requiring us to return to the U.S. to seek some new financial partners.

We found the idea of pulling up stakes in just a month rather daunting, and if it meant we would have to give up the home we have rented for the last six years, and pack up and store all our stuff somewhere, it would have been almost impossible. So, we asked the Lord to provide us with a missionary family who could house-sit for us for the entire school year, something not easy to find. He provided that family the very next day! So, though it didn't fit in with our plans at all, it seems the Lord's will is for us to spend the next year in the U.S. This will be the first time in my more than 30 years as a missionary that we have had to return early because of support! As the verses above from James say so clearly, we do not even know what will happen tomorrow, so all we can say is, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that"!

Because our supporters are spread out over such a large area, it's very difficult to find a place to put the kids in school that would allow us to travel throughout this area. This will mean that Betty will need to home-school the children on the road this year (with some help from me). Please pray for her as she dives into this new endeavor!



James and Christina came to Ecuador for a nice long visit in June, and we met our grandson Max for the first time! Here they are getting ready to eat a delicious roast *cuy*. (See Cultural Closeup.)

Other Activities

- In May I (Rick) was able to travel down to visit the small Quichua church in Mondayacu, in the eastern jungle. This is the village where Paúl Chiriboga has been working for the last year. I had not visited Mondayacu for many years, largely because of frustration with the total lack of growth in the church. However, it now seemed the time to visit again, and one of the elders from our Quito church and I had a good time challenging the small group there to fully commit to the Lord. One result was that a young man named Lenin, whom I had always thought would be an excellent candidate for leadership there, but who had not been following the Lord or involved in the church for a number of years, has now recommitted himself to the Lord and has been a big help to Paúl in recent weeks.

- In June I was also able to travel again with Segundo down to visit the Estrella de Belén (Star of Bethlehem) Quichua church in Paltapamba, four

hours south of Quito, to continue training their leaders.

• The new Central Highland Quichua Old Testament translation project is moving slowly, but I expect Daniel to get into the swing of things soon. I will be able to continue working with him over Skype, even in the U.S.

Home Ministry Assignment and Support Situation

So now our plan is to be in the U.S. from September, 2011 until the summer of 2012. Please let us know when your scheduled missions conferences are, or when you would like us to visit, so that we can begin filling up our calendar.

At this time it looks like we will need to raise at least \$1,500 in additional monthly support. Please consider whether God may be calling you, your congregation or those you know to begin, renew or increase your financial support for our ministry in Ecuador. If you could pledge to give yearly or monthly, it would help us to return to our ministry in Ecuador as planned. If you desire further information about supporting our ministry please contact us directly at **972-535-4356** or RAschmann@mtwsa.org.

Please send pledges or support to: **Mission to the World**
PO Box 116284
Atlanta, GA 30368-6284 **Rick and Betty Aschmann, account #10107**

Prayer & Praise

- Please pray for us in all of the packing and paperwork (passports, etc.) that needs to be done in one short month before we go to the U.S., and for the kids' and our adjustment to this major move.
- Continue praying for all of our projects and ministries:
 - For the Central Highland Quichua Old Testament translation.
 - For the continued training of the leaders of the Star of Bethlehem church in Paltapamba. Please pray that others on our team can complete that process while we are gone, so that they can formally join with us soon, as they have long desired.
 - For Paúl Chiriboga in Mondayacu, for Lenin in his recommitment to the Lord, and for the church there.
- Continue praying for our needed monthly support.



Cultural Closeup

When we arrived at the Paltapamba church, they invited us to supper. They served us something I had never had before: guinea pig soup! This was a special honor, since guinea pigs are expensive compared to other meat, and are considered a special delicacy throughout the highlands of Ecuador. They are called *cuy* in Spanish and Quichua. Many people raise them in their homes, especially among the Quichuas. We have eaten guinea pig cooked in many different ways, but this was the first time I had had it in soup. It was delicious!

Whenever we are invited to a Quichua event or meal, they always serve us huge quantities of food, most of which is a big pile of rice and another pile of potatoes, with a small amount of meat. And we often start out with a soup. There is no way Betty or I can eat all that we are served, but we have observed that the Quichuas have no trouble putting it all away, and very few of them are overweight. On this trip, as usual, I couldn't finish all the rice or potatoes at each meal. They couldn't understand this, and they laughed at me and called me *misi huijsa* "eat stomach", since obviously my stomach's capacity is tiny compared to theirs. How can they eat so much at one sitting? And how can they not gain weight? The answer seems to be that they usually only have one meal a day, but that meal is fairly large, so their stomachs have stretched to accommodate it.

As we were leaving after our time of teaching, Ángel, one of the elders, gave Segundo and me each a live chicken in a burlap sack. Naturally I didn't want to offend him, so we both accepted them and put them in the car to take home. On the way home I called Betty (who in her youth on the farm plucked and cleaned many a chicken) and asked her if she wanted a live chicken. She said, "No, definitely not. Just give it to Segundo." He was happy to have it to feed his five children, four of them over the age of 15.



Ángel and his daughter Katie. She was just a baby in the picture from our December 2009 newsletter!

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Our newsletters can be seen on the Internet at:
www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter.