

Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.

Proverbs 25:25 NIV



Anne, now 10, being received as a church member by organizing pastor Javier Muñoz

Meeting the Neighbors

Rick: When we got the invitation to the birthday party for our neighbors' 2-year-old daughter, we thought, "How nice: a little party where we can get to know our neighbors in a relaxed setting." Not at all! When we got there we found that dozens of relatives, friends, and business associates had been invited, plus a combination clown and entertainment coordinator! Even so, it was great fun for the kids, and we got to visit a good bit with our neighbors, and we got to meet a lot of other people, which was really an answer to prayer.

Since we arrived here to participate in the church-planting internship in Bogotá, our prayer has been that we could get to know the neighbors and seek opportunities to pray for them and their struggles and concerns. And almost from the first day God began to answer those prayers almost entirely through our children. We live in a gated community here (of which there a very large number, for security reasons), and the first day the kids went out to play on the community lawn, they made friends with several of the neighborhood kids. Next thing we know those kids want to come to our house to play, but we naturally said, "Oh, no, we have to meet your parents first and get their permission." They immediately took us to meet their parents, so we got to meet the neighbors in the context of being careful of the welfare of their kids, which was very nice!

Video for General Assembly

Betty: I got back into the swing of video editing pretty quickly. I produced a six and a half minute video about the mission work here in Colombia for the Presbyterian Church in America's General Assembly in North Carolina in June. It was shown at a luncheon during General Assembly. It was really good to jump right in, get to know the churches, ministries, and a few areas of Bogotá right away, even though I came down with bronchitis in the middle of the production and it took longer than it should have. Now the video is done and I am feeling better. You can see the video on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ6pWeWLa-0.

Trip to Ecuador

Rick: I have finally been able to schedule my first ministry trip back to Ecuador! It took a while to reconnect with the brothers at the Quichua church in Paltapamba, 4 hours south of Quito, but I was finally able to get in touch, and they would like me to come and teach them the second weekend in July, so I am planning the trip to Ecuador for July 16-23, and to Paltapamba July 19-21. One of our former Ecuador team members is planning to go with me to Paltapamba, and another may also go along.

I am very excited to be able to reconnect this way with our ministries and friends in Ecuador, but I know it will be rather grueling, and complicated logistically, especially this first time. I would appreciate your prayers!

As mentioned in our last newsletter, after we arrived in Colombia with full support, a large donor unexpectedly needed to stop their giving, so suddenly we find ourselves in the situation of needing about \$800 per month in additional monthly support, again! Please consider if you can help us with a new or increased monthly pledge.

Giving options (for one-time or regular gifts)

• **On-Line** (Credit Card or Electronic Transfer)

Go to www.mtw.org → Ways to Give → Give to missionaries
→ Aschmann, Richard & Betty → Donate

• **Check by Mail**

Pay to the order of: Mission to the World
PO Box 116284
Atlanta, GA 30368-6284

On memo line: Rick & Betty Aschmann, acct. #10107

Prayer & Praise

- Praise God that the first of several brand new church plants got started here in Bogotá on April 7, and is going well. It is called El Refugio “The Refuge.” Please pray that God would bring in many new believers from our neighborhoods to build up that church. Please pray especially for a marriage seminar training program scheduled for the last two weekends in July, that this will be the means of building a church with strong, healthy marriages and families.
- Pray for the health of our family and team. We have all been sick a lot since we arrived, especially Betty, mainly with colds and flu. Many others on our team have been also, and our pastor’s wife is currently hospitalized with a severe flu. Please pray that we can all stay well so that we can focus on what God has us here for!
- Pray for Rick on his trip to Ecuador July 16-23 and to Paltapamba July 19-21, that God would make it a very profitable and effective trip for renewing contacts, that the teaching in Paltapamba will be very fruitful, and that Rick would stay healthy and well, before, during and after the trip.
- Continue praying that the remaining amount still needed in monthly pledges will be provided.



Cultural Closeup

Rick: In Spanish the word for gasoline is almost the same as English, “gasolina”, but unlike English, this is never shortened to “gas”. Even so, at many gasoline stations there will be a sign saying “gas”. This refers not to gasoline but to propane gas, which is what most of the taxis run on in this city, and many stations have special pumps that dispense propane, like the one shown in the picture. I was told that it costs about half what it costs to run the same car on gasoline. (The attendant thought it was really funny that I wanted to take a picture of this. You never pump your own gas here, or gasoline either. ☺)

There are many thousands of yellow taxis here in Bogotá, and they aren’t that expensive to use. (You can see 5 of them in the picture.) In fact, if you fill the taxi with people and are only going a few miles, it costs no more than for the whole family to take a bus, and an added benefit is that you know you won’t have to stand up the whole trip on a crowded bus. However, we are glad we only have two kids living with us, because 4 is the absolute maximum that can be squeezed into the tiny taxis.

We often find ourselves taking taxis, because even though we own our own car, every other day we aren’t allowed to drive during morning or evening rush hour. This measure is called “pico y placa”, which means “rush hour and license plate”. It is intended to

reduce traffic congestion, and it really does seem to help during rush hour: as soon as the official rush hour period is over in the morning, the traffic always gets a lot worse! We have an odd-numbered license plate, so we are not allowed to drive on any odd-numbered day of the month from 6 to 8:30 a.m. or from 3 to 7:30 p.m. If you get caught driving when you aren’t supposed to, they will impound your car and fine you about \$150 dollars. So we really have to pay attention!



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