

# Aschmann Action

March 2014

<sup>1</sup>You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2 ESV

## *One Year in Bogotá!*

Rick: Wow! It doesn't seem possible that we have already been here in Bogotá, Colombia, a full year, and that our planned time here is nearly half over! God has been good to us!

We have gotten involved in several new activities lately in addition to those we were doing last year.

## *Online Training*



Segundo at home in Quito, Ecuador, with wife Laura and son Jordan

I have recently gotten involved in a discussion group every Friday evening for training prospective pastors in the Andean presbytery here in Colombia. Pastor Javier Muñoz is the leader, and we have a mix of veteran missionaries and new pastoral candidates. (I am both!☺) The participants live in different cities, so we have the discussion over the Internet using the Skype program. Again, modern technology makes it possible to do things we could not otherwise do, to further God's kingdom.

So how well does it work? Very well! We can't see each other, but we can hear each other quite well, and we ask and answer questions and have a very effective learning experience.

One bonus for me is that Segundo has also started to participate, from his computer at his home in Quito, and this is an encour-

agement for both him and me, since he is wanting to complete his training to be able to be ordained as a pastor, and this is one way the training can be carried out without my having to travel as much.

I would like to do something similar for the leaders of the church in Paltapamba, Ecuador, that we have mentioned in past newsletters. It turns out that one of the leaders in that church is setting up an Internet café in the nearby town of Guaranda (there is so far no Internet in Paltapamba itself), and we hope that this will be an effective means of having regular contact with them, and even online teaching sessions! I am seeing more and more that I will need to find some practical ways to encourage them, since the kind of study we are asking of them is kind of outside their comfort zone. I have postponed my next trip to Ecuador until April or May, and one of the reasons is that I am waiting for some of this to get set up.

## *Couples' Bible Study*

Another new activity is that our church is beginning several home Bible study groups, focusing on God's principles for marriage. Last year Betty and I received the training to lead one of these groups, and are hoping to get one going in the next few weeks.

Everywhere and in every culture the family is God's key building block for building his church



The *café romántico* "romantic coffee" that was the kickoff for the couples' Bible studies, with some colorful decorations

and society in general, and there are always many hurting marriages that need God's healing hand. We plan to apply these same principles in our ministry to the Quichuas when we return to Ecuador.

### *Prayer & Praise*

- Please pray for wisdom in planning my (Rick's) next trip to Ecuador, both as far as who may be able to accompany me and as to when would be the most strategic time to go, probably in April or May. Pray that I will have wisdom in motivating the leaders of the Paltapamba church to study the materials we left with them, something that is difficult to do at a distance. As part of that, pray that they will be able to get their Internet café set up so that we can do video conferencing with them.
- Continue praying for me (Rick) as I study and prepare for the last stage in my ordination process as a pastor over the course of the next year. Pray also for Segundo, as he is also moving ahead in this process under the direction of Javier and me.
- Continue praying for us (Rick and Betty) as we continue leading the music group at *El Refugio* "The Refuge", our church plant here in Bogotá. Pray also for the training of new Colombian musicians and singers to help during church services, so that as soon as possible we can turn over this responsibility to local church members.
- Please continue praying for the health of our whole family. We all seem to get sick more frequently here than we did in the U.S. or in Ecuador, mainly with colds and flus, and this has been kind of discouraging.

### *Studying for Ordination*

Another new activity is that I am focusing again on studying for the various exams I will need to take to finalize my ordination process to become a pastor. I have now gotten the list of most of the books I need to study, and now I just need to buckle down and do it. My hope and prayer is that I can return to Alabama for the completion of this process during 2014.

Do you want to receive God's blessing?  
Do you want to have financial security?

This is a booklet I recently wrote to teach God's principles of stewardship. It is in Spanish and English, and Segundo is translating it into Quichua. You can see it at: [Quichua.net/Q/Ec/Bendiciones.html](http://Quichua.net/Q/Ec/Bendiciones.html)



### *Cultural Closeup*

Betty: Bogotá has an interesting day in February. It's called "Día sin Carro" "No Car Day" and its purpose (I understand) is to help the environment. For an entire day, 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM, no one is allowed to drive their personal car. If someone is caught driving, they receive a fine of more than \$100, plus their car is confiscated for 24 hours. I'm not sure how effective it is, considering the city loses money since many businesses shut down for the day. (Our children did not have school.) Also, all public transportation, including extra buses and taxis are allowed to run. Motorcycles can drive, and come out in extra force. And, to top it all off, extra police have to be on the road to enforce the no-car rule. Initial studies cast some doubt on how much it helped the air pollution situation, but I guess it's the thought that counts.

When we saw on the school calendar that the kids didn't have school because of "No Car Day", we thought this was something the school had developed. We didn't realize it was a Bogotá-wide rule since we weren't here last year on February 6th. We were considering taking a day out with the kids, until some friends told us, two days before, that it was a city rule. Whew! That could have been a hassle.



Anne broke her right arm in February. She was in a cast for 3 weeks. She got quite good at writing, feeding herself, and even playing the piano left-handed.

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