

Merry Christmas
from

Aschmann Action

December 2015

[Jesus said]...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18 ESV

The Old Testament Project is Finally Moving Again!

Rick: Remember the Central Highland Quichua New Testament that was published in early 2010? And the Old Testament project we had asked y'all to pray about for several years after that, but which was put on the back burner because of budget constraints in the sponsoring organization? Well, the budget constraints haven't been solved, but the native translator, Daniel Sigla, is so concerned about the lack of Bibles for the Quichuas* that he has decided to work on the project without pay, and has asked me and the other missionaries who participated in the project to help again, and we have all enthusiastically agreed. (The others on the team are living in other countries, but with modern technology we can all communicate just fine.) I just finished spell-checking† and editing the first 21 chapters of Genesis that Daniel has translated, and he told me he already has more to send me. This has been one of the things that has kept me busy over the last couple of months, and even as we dive into our church plant I am committed to continue helping complete this project.

Quito Quichua Church Plant

Segundo and I have been getting together to pray regularly, asking God to show us where to start a church plant, how to set about reaching those God has in mind, and praying that we will be sensitive to his leading at each step in the process. As the verse above declares, it is only Jesus and not us who can plant an effective church.

We are still evaluating what part of the city would be the best place to start our new Quichua church plant. Because both his family and ours live in the north part of the city, we are looking at several neighborhoods in the north, neighborhoods that have lots of Quichua speakers who have immigrated from the countryside, but where there are no Quichua churches.

Quito is an unusual city: it is some 37 miles long from north to south, but only about 5 miles wide in several places. The reason for this is that it sits on a long, narrow plateau, with the huge Pichincha volcano on the west (15,700 feet high) and a steep ridge on the east that separates it from a valley 1,000 feet below. Thus the city was forced to take the shape of this plateau. Most maps of the city have west at the top instead of north, since otherwise it is hard to fit it on your wall.

It can take an hour and a half to two hours to travel from the north end to the south end by car. This is why we are looking at neighborhoods in the north, and we have already identified several good possibilities.

Cotopaxi Eruption

Thanks for praying about the eruption of the Cotopaxi volcano we talked about in our last letter. For most of the past three months it has been putting out vapor and ash on a daily basis, but lately it has settled down a bit, and the government has allowed people to return to their homes in many areas.



* Various translations have been published in Central Highland Quichua over the years, as well as in several other Quichua languages of Ecuador, but they are all out of print. This new translation is being done by a very gifted native speaker, which is an ideal way way to produce a good, understandable translation.

† See the *Cultural Closeup* in our [March, 2010 newsletter](#).

Prayer & Praise

- Please pray as we explore these neighborhoods, that God will give us just the right contacts and direction as we work toward planting a church in the Quichua language and train leaders.
- Please pray for the Old Testament translation project, that God would give us all great wisdom in clearly and faithfully translating his Word into Quichua, and that it could be published in a timely fashion.
- Continue praying for Anne (7th grade) and Nathan (5th grade) as they continue to adjust to a new school and build new friendships.
- Please pray that our giving will remain strong, as we are still lacking around \$900 per month in official pledges.
- Praise that the Cotopaxi volcano has settled down to some degree and that many have been able to return to their homes. Please continue praying that it will remain calm and will not continue to endanger lives and property.

Cultural Closeup



Betty: We moved into a nice three-story apartment building here in Quito in June. The lot next door was empty and construction was

scheduled to start when the owner came up with the money. That happened in October. They started digging. Most of the work was done with this backhoe, digging and even tearing down walls. But almost all the detail work is done by hand. We are watching the next stage, too. They are cutting apart rebar and welding it to size. Nothing is pre-manufactured because labor is cheaper than factory-made parts here. It is very interesting watching the process and we will see what develops. We suspected it would be a large apartment building, since they had dug so deep, and just recently they put up a drawing of the planned building, and it will have 8 stories, which will cut down on our view and our morning sun.



Construction site October 1 viewed from our balcony



The rope is the guideline to make the cut straight.

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Our newsletters: www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter.



Construction site early December