

Aschmann Action

April 2016

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
John 15:5

How to Find Unchurched Quichuas

Rick: In our last newsletter I talked about our plan to start a Quichua church in the north part of Quito. As part of that strategy Segundo and I have been visiting different neighborhoods in Quito, trying to meet Quichuas and chat with them. Because we are starting a new church, we want to be careful not to attract people who are already believers and are already going to a church here, so our goal is to meet new people rather than going through our existing networks of Quichua speakers.

The problem has been that it hasn't been that easy to find Quichuas in the City to chat with. We have tried walking through potential target neighborhoods in the north part of the city where we know that Quichuas live. But we found that most of them are either at work in some other part of Quito, or the few that we do find work in tiny grocery stores that stay busy, so they don't have time to talk to us.

So the next thing we tried was to go to some downtown markets where we know the Quichuas sell their artisan work, to chat with them there. Though we were hoping that some of them lived up north, we found none who did. And the few believers we found already had a church connection.

One day I said to Segundo, "You were part of a successful church plant back some 30 years ago. How did you meet people to get that started?" "Oh," he said, "we went to some parks on Sunday afternoons and met people. Hey, maybe we should try that." It turns out that that is the one time the Quichuas usually are not working, but I didn't know that, and Segundo hadn't thought about it until I asked. Planting a church is kind of like raising a teenager: it requires lots of creativity and trial and error.

So the next Sunday we tried that, visiting the two largest city parks in Quito. In the first park, in the far north of Quito, we met a Quichua family who were very interested in what we were doing. It was two young couples with their children, and the wives were sisters. They lived in downtown Quito and were believers. They had grown up in a Quichua church in Chimborazo province. Then we asked if they were going to church anywhere, and one of the men said, "Well, we visited a couple of Quichua churches downtown, but everyone was from the same family, and they just didn't welcome us, so, no, we aren't going anywhere." So I said, "Well in that case we would invite y'all to be part of our new church, but y'all wouldn't want to travel so far to go to church." "Why not?" he said, "We wouldn't mind at all! We came this far just to come to the park!" That very morning I had prayed that God would give us some "divine appointments" with people, thinking of the above verse, and he did!

Then we went to another park, much closer to where we live. It was wall-to-wall people on a Sunday afternoon! We met and chatted with many Quichuas, both believers and non-believers, and found some who were interested in studying the Bible with us, and who lived close by. So God answered our prayers!

Lots of Bible Translation Projects!

Rick: In our last letter I talked about how the Central Highland Quichua Old Testament project has gotten going again, and that is still continuing. But since then I was asked to participate in two more translation projects, both of which

Thank you!

Thanks again to so many of you who have sent in extra funds over the last months, and of course also to our faithful regular supporters. Our account balance has continued fairly steady, though we are still lacking \$900 per month in monthly pledges. Please prayerfully consider if you can support us or up your support.

Giving options (for one-time or regular gifts):

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Other sites: www.hcjb.org, www.wycliffe.org

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

Prayer & Praise

- Praise that God has provided some good contacts and a good strategy for finding more. Please pray that he would give us wisdom as to when and where to begin meeting for Bible study.
- Please pray for Betty. She has been battling some serious continuing health issues since the first part of February. And she will be having surgery to remove a polyp in the uterus soon.
- Praise that the Central Highland Quichua New Testament was revised and sent for printing. Pray that this Scripture will be a blessing to many.
- Praise that funds are available for a quick revision of the Imbabura Quichua Bible. Please pray for all involved, that the work will be done well in the short time available.
- Please continue praying that our giving will remain strong. (See box on page 1.)

I was eager to take part in!

First, early this year Biblica (formerly the International Bible Society) decided to reprint the New Testament that was finished in 2010 in a bilingual (Spanish-Quichua) edition. Daniel, the native translator, had already found some changes that needed to be made, and so had I, and when Daniel learned about the plan, he wanted to do a quick revision. This was authorized, but we had to hurry. He read the New Testament through, marked the revisions (about 2,000!), and then went over all of them with me to produce a final edition. This was turned in for printing in March.

Soon after that I received an e-mail from the organization (a different one) that had printed the Imbabura Quichua Bible (a different Quichua language, the one that Segundo speaks), which had been out of print for at least 10 years. About 6 years ago we had petitioned them to reprint this Bible with some important corrections we had identified. This e-mail said that they now had funds to reprint the Bible, and would also fund a committee to do a fairly quick revision, and I was invited to participate. We are very excited about this, though it looks like it will be an intense process over the next couple of months. When it rains it pours!

Cultural Closeup



Betty: I thought I'd do a price list this time, based on prices we see all the time.

All non-food purchases have an additional 12% tax. Usually the vehicles and other high-end purchases include the tax in the price tag, so that you don't freak out at seeing the final bill!

We were blessed to be able to buy something special this year. We needed a full size piano keyboard for our children, who are both getting quite good on the piano. We priced them in the U.S. at about \$700. But that is not the price in Quito. It is difficult to import things right now and we weren't sure that we could afford

liter of milk	\$1.70
loaf of bread	2.00
dozen eggs (medium)	2.00
gallon of orange juice	6.30
can of tuna	1.25
bag of about 12 carrots	1.00
6 apples	3.00
pound of hamburger	3.50
2 pounds of dog food	8.00
box of facial tissues	3.50
gallon of gas	extra \$1.48 super \$2.10
New 2016 Chevrolet Spark GT	\$19,000
Used 2006 Ford Explorer XLT 4D	\$16,000- \$20,000

the Ecuadorian price or if it would be available here. But some friends, former missionaries, decided to help us with the price difference and sent us \$500 towards the keyboard. And we found exactly what we were looking for—\$1150! What a blessing to see how God provides.



Nathan and Anne at the piano