



“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).  
Matthew 1:23

### *God’s Protection during the Unrest*

We have all been through a tough few months here in Ecuador with protests and unrest. While we remained holed up in our house with enough supplies to be content, our Quichua friends suffered quite a bit more. Protests started October 3rd with transportation companies and other groups shutting down the country in protest of the government taking subsidies off of gasoline prices as well as raising public transportation costs. Protests continued for another 11 days, taking a more violent turn, as various groups stormed government buildings and were met with military and police opposition. The Indigenous groups, with Quichuas being the largest in number, stormed some government buildings and marched into Quito by the thousands.

We prayed for our Quichua Christian friends, for their safety and that they might shine the light of Christ in this tough time. It was especially difficult since the Quichuas, as a group, were expected to participate in the protests and were hassled sometimes when they would not. When we were finally able to meet with them again for a Sunday Bible study, Patricio told us that he, his wife, and his three little girls went to downtown Quito for a bit one day. They turned around and went home, though, when tear gas was thrown on both sides of them. Gladis decided to stay home with her three young children. However, she had a rough time of it because she didn’t have much food and tear gas was thrown into her house. We were thankful to see them in good health and to be able to pray with them on the Sunday after things settled down. Thank you so much for your prayers!

### *Prayer & Praise*

- Please continue praying for our Quichua Bible studies and the special messages we will be teaching over the Christmas season..
- Praise God that Anne’s eyes are doing very well and that her treatments are finished for her Ocular Toxoplasmosis, but please keep her in your prayers as she is battling some other health issues including headaches.
- Please continue to pray for the political situation in Ecuador. The violent protests have ended, but there is still a feeling of mistrust and unrest as the country looks to presidential elections this spring. Also, our Christian friends in various Latin American countries have been facing similar violence and unrest. Chile, Bolivia, and Colombia, among other countries, are struggling.
- Praise God that the Old Testament translation is in the works for the Central Highland Quichua language. Please continue to pray for the committee that is working on the Bible revision for the Imbabura Quichua language group.

## Starting the Old Testament Translation

The Quichua Christians have been begging for the entire Bible in the Central Highland language since the New Testament was published in 2010. And that is now becoming a reality! A mission here in Ecuador has donated some money for Quichua Bible translator Daniel Sigla to begin working on the Old Testament full-time in January. Rick will be the editor and main consultant. We will be letting you know more about this wonderful opportunity as it gets going.



### Cultural Closeup

The city of Quito is trying an interesting new way to control traffic in Quito. It's called "Hoy no circula" meaning "Today no driving". Based on the last number of each license plate, there is an entire day that each vehicle is not allowed to drive in Quito. For example... if the license plate ends in 1 or 2, it's Monday, 3 or 4 is Tuesday, etc. Our day is Wednesday. If anybody gets caught driving between 5 AM and 8 PM on their day, they are fined and their car is impounded for 24 hours. Not fun, especially during the rainy season! At least public transportation, including taxis, is readily available. We have noticed an increasing number of vehicles that "haven't received their license plates yet." If your permanent license plate hasn't been issued yet, for example when you purchase a new car, then you can have a paper license number taped in your window until you receive the official plate. Since it is easy to print whatever number you want on paper, there seems to be an increasing number of paper licenses. Oh SURE, we believe they ALL are waiting on their new plates!



Our car, with a proper license plate



A vehicle with a "temporary" paper license plate in the window.  
One day I saw 18 of these in 6 blocks!

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