

Merry Christmas from the Aschmanns

December 2020

Bible Project Moves Ahead

The Old Testament translation project continues full speed ahead. Daniel finished the first draft of Genesis and Psalms and is working on Proverbs now. There have been various setup hurdles to jump to get the project set up on the ParaText program so that our whole team can work together online (some in Ecuador and some in the U.S.). It should all be set up in the next few weeks.



No Mail!

The Ecuadorian government made one big cutback due to the Coronavirus crisis. All mail service is shut-down, with no plans to open again. Please do not send us letters or cards anymore! 😞 We hadn't received any letters since February, but now we are getting old stuff. It appears the government officials are cleaning out old mail bags from before COVID. We just received our first Christmas card! One of our churches sent a card in December 2019 and it arrived here November 12, 2020!

National Flag Day

We are so proud of our daughter, Anne. She is a senior this year and doing great! She had the honor of being the Ecuadorian national flag bearer for Alliance Academy International. Flag day is very important in Ecuador and this is a huge honor, much like the valedictorian of the class, except it's done at the beginning of the senior year instead of the end. Of course, the ceremony was on-line instead of in person. But she gave a speech anyway! Good job, Anne.



Picture time in front of the Ecuadorian flag.



We had to take a "mask" picture, too, to remind us of life this year.

New Help for Hungry Ecuadorians

We are trying to help the Pan de Vida ministry (pandevida.org.ec) with a new initiative to help Ecuadorians through this crisis. They are starting an entrepreneur program to provide seeds or animals and the training for people to grow their own food and maybe have some leftover to sell. We have been checking with the Quichuas to see who can have animals or grow food, or other possible microbusinesses. Meanwhile, Pan de Vida is still trying to provide food until things get off the ground with this new business. We're hoping to meet some new Quichuas through this new initiative.

Ministry struggles

"Thank you, Pastor, thank you for praying for me." I hear this quite a lot from the Quichuas I call regularly to read them a Bible passage and pray with them. But it has certainly been difficult trying to keep discipleships going through the COVID crisis. And it has been nearly impossible to meet new Quichua families. Just one month ago, the government of Quito allowed churches to meet again, but with very strict health and safety rules. We are only allowed 30% capacity and since the rooms we have been using for church services consider full capacity about 30 people, we can't even get two families in. Also, church services are permitted, but no children under 13 years old are allowed to come. That rules out 90% of our Quichua families. Most have young children. Anyway, we are trying to not be discouraged and keep up with our families as best we can.



Cultural Closeup

We have had to do quite a lot of government paperwork this fall, and it is horribly complicated with the COVID crisis. We accomplished getting Anne's cédula (required government ID card) and Ecuadorian passport renewed. Once we got the appointment to go in, it wasn't difficult. But getting the appointments was a challenge. We had to go online and plug in a lot of information, wait for a code, choose an office for the appointment, then reserve a time to go in. I worked for hours online trying to get an appointment, but every time I tried, all the appointments were filled. And we could only set up an appointment one week in advance. It helped when someone took pity on us and gave us a hint that, for the ID card, we had to start at 8:45 PM Friday night to get an appointment for the next week. And by 9:30 PM, all the appointments were filled! And for the passport, the time frame was from 8:45-10:00 PM Sunday night. Complicated!

Rick and I both have to renew our Ecuadorian drivers licenses also. That's a whole different dilemma. Rick's expires Nov. 16th, but the first appointment available is the end of January. Mine expires mid-December, and I got in for January, too. The government has said they will allow us to drive on expired licenses only until the end of the year, and then only if we prove we have an appointment to take the test and get the new license!

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Other sites: www.hcjb.org, www.wycliffe.org
Our newsletters: www.Aschmann.net/Rick/Newsletter.

Prayer & Praise

- Pray for the Pan de Vida entrepreneur plan, that we could help many families help themselves. Also, that we could meet some new Quichua families.
- Pray for Anne and Nathan as they continue with online school, at least until the end of the year. Nathan in particular is struggling with keeping up with online classes.
- Thank the Lord for our health, safety, and provision through all our faithful supporters in these tough times.
- Thank the Lord that exciting things are happening with the Old Testament translation project. Continue to pray for Daniel Sigla and the team, that God's Word would be faithfully translated and available soon for the Quichua-speaking peoples.