

Aschmann Action

June 2021

The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

Proverbs 16:9 ESV

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 ESV

Anne's Graduation



Anne's graduation

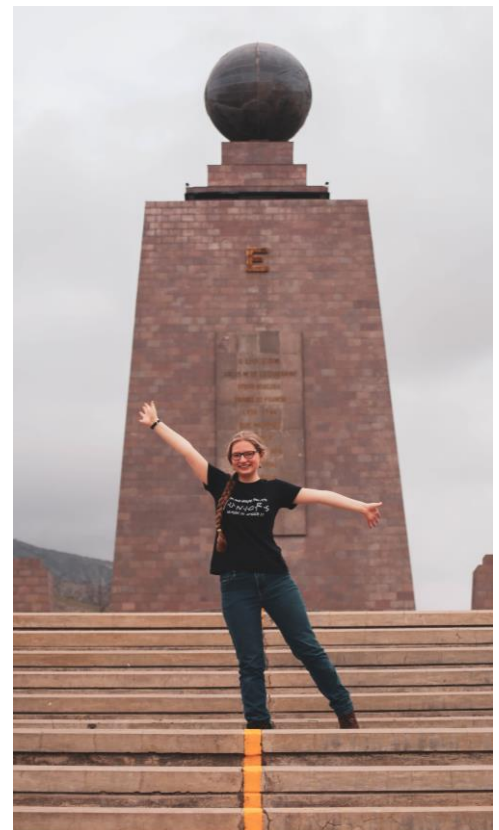
We are so proud of our daughter Anne. She graduated from Alliance Academy International here in Quito, Ecuador this month... and with top honors! She graduated valedictorian of her class. Considering all the challenges she has faced this past year, that is amazing. In spite of her Type 1 Diabetes diagnosis in June 2020 and her retina issues in her left eye, she still amazes us with her determination, intelligence, and loving spirit. And classes were held online all year, so she didn't even get to see some of her classmates. She will be attending Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska next fall, studying mathematics with an emphasis on teaching. Way to go Anne!!!!

Our Summer Plans

This summer we will be traveling to Nebraska to get Anne set up for her first year of college at Concordia. This will be a busy summer, as we find her new doctors in the area and she gets her driver's license. We hope to see some of you this summer, especially our friends in the Lincoln area, but our main priority will be helping Anne get settled. Please keep Anne's transition in your prayers.

The Old Testament translation is moving fast!

The Old Testament translation for the Central Highland Quichua language continues full force. Quichua translator Daniel Sigla has Genesis, Exodus, Psalms, and Proverbs finished in the first draft and the editors are working hard to keep up. I had the opportunity to go to



Anne at the equator monument

Chimborazo Province (the main area for this language group) at the end of May with a couple of the local Biblica (International Bible Society) leaders. I spoke to about 600 people, pastors, leaders, and their families at a conference for Quichua leadership. We were able to sell two boxes of the New Testaments and encourage the leaders to take part in the final check of the translation.

Church planting is tough work right now!

Our little church plant has been really struggling during the pandemic. Ecuador has closed down the country various times since March 2020, and every time we try to get our Sunday meetings started, we are able to meet for a couple of weeks, then weekend meetings are shut down again. We have been able to keep in touch via telephone and WhatsApp, but growing the church and training leaders has basically come to a standstill. Well, the Lord knows and we're praying for open doors when we return from our summer trip.



Rick teaching at the Quichua Pastors' conference.
(Photo courtesy of Pablo Del Salto)

Prayer & Praise

- Thank the Lord for the progress of the Old Testament translation project. What a great thing to focus on during the COVID crisis, when we're still having to do so many things online.
- Praise God that Anne's health is improving and she's looking forward to college.
- Please pray for Anne's continued health and for her transition to living and studying in the United States. (And you can keep her mom, dad, and brother in your prayers, too. We're thinking she will be a long way away!)
- Please pray for wisdom as we try to figure out the next steps with the church plant, especially since Ecuador keeps shutting down.



Cultural Closeup

Well, Ecuador had a nearly complete shutdown again from April 23 to May 20 due to the rising number of COVID cases. We had a curfew from 8 pm to 5 am every day, Monday through Friday. But the weekends were even more difficult. From Friday at 8 pm until Monday at 5 am, nobody was allowed to leave the house. All stores, banks, malls, etc. were closed, and basically the only people allowed out were medical personnel, military and police, people with medical emergencies and certain food and pharmacy delivery people. Anyone leaving the house without permission could be fined \$200. And if you decided to invite a bunch of people for the weekend to have a party, you could be fined \$6000 (and we heard that some were). Now, however, the curfew is no longer in effect. But driving regulations still are. We are restricted from driving two days a week, and no one can drive Friday or Saturday after 11 pm until the next morning. I'm not sure how we are going to handle all the freedom when we return to the U.S. this summer!

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