

# Aschmann Action

March 2025

<sup>1</sup>Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed. <sup>2</sup>O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come. ...  
<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it. <sup>10</sup>You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

Psalms 65:1-2,9-10

## Power-ful Prayers

Wow, thanks for all your prayers for the energy crisis here in Ecuador that had been going on since September, caused by the worst drought in 60 years. Over the last few months it has been raining quite a lot. We have had no power cuts since December 20<sup>th</sup>. The drought is over. Ironically, we are now having floods in many areas of Ecuador!

## The Growing Church in Pigulca

The church plant in the north of Ecuador, in the small town of San Luis de Pigulca is growing. Our pastor in training, Segundo Anrango, has been holding meetings there every week since the beginning of 2024. We travel there once a month to hold a communion service. They have been meeting in the small community center that we helped fix up a couple of years ago. However, they are starting to outgrow it! A member of the congregation has donated land in the town, so that a church can be built. We held a special prayer meeting to dedicate the land on the first weekend of January.



Prayer meeting to dedicate the new church site

## Betty's News

I really enjoyed my work with "Corrientes", the ministry with HCJB where I disciple gals from all over Latin America who are going to the mission field. However, because of the power cuts last fall, the leadership decided not to hold this spring's classes. Instead they are planning the next group which is scheduled to arrive in May. Since I haven't had that ministry to focus on these past couple of months, God has provided another min-

## Prayer & Praise

- Praise God that the first draft of the Quichua Old Testament is now complete. However, please continue praying for the huge amount of work to be done before the translation can be finalized and published.
- Pray that God would clearly lead Anne to where she should go as she looks for a teaching job after she finishes college.
- Praise God for the abundant rain and the relief of the drought here in Ecuador.
- Continuing praying for the Cofán Old Testament translation project, that God would continue to bless the efforts of the entire translation team.
- Pray for Segundo and Laura as they continue ministering in the northern Ecuador town of San Luis de Pigulca and surrounding areas.

istry. A young man from the U.S., Joshua, is student teaching at Alliance Academy this spring, and he is staying with us. It is really fun hosting him. We get to hear about his teaching experiences, and compare that with Anne who is doing her student teaching in Nebraska right now.

## *A Bible Translation Milestone*

We are praising God that Daniel was able to complete the first draft of the translation of the Quichua Old Testament in December, in spite of all the complications with the power cuts! Thanks again for all your prayers. However, there is still a huge amount of work to do before the translation is finalized and ready for publication. First we need to review and revise the entire text, run the text through all of the standard checks for consistency and accuracy, and make final decisions about key biblical terms and many other details. After that the entire Bible needs to be read over by various churches and committees of native speakers of Quichua to make sure that it communicates clearly and accurately in their heart language. All of this work is projected to take another one to two years to complete, but is very necessary so that the Quichuas can have a Bible that fully meets their needs.

The Cofán Old Testament translation project is not nearly so far along, but is continuing to progress very well, and I will continue to be very busy on both projects.

## *Family News*

Both Anne and Nathan were able to visit us for Christmas. We had a wonderful time together. And this was the first international trip Anne took with her Diabetic Alert Dog, Darcy. There was a lot of paperwork to work out, but the trip went pretty well. She rode at Anne's feet on the airplane. It was interesting to see many Ecuadorians' reactions to a service dog. They are not very common here.

Also, Anne will be graduating from college in May! She will have a math education degree. This spring is very busy for her, as she is student-teaching and applying for jobs for this fall.



## *Cultural Closeup*

**Voting day in Ecuador:** February 9<sup>th</sup> was the first round of voting here in Ecuador. Besides the congressional election, there were some 20 candidates for president on the ballot. I say first round because the top two candidates go on to a final election on April 13<sup>th</sup>. One of the two candidates is the current president.

A couple of interesting things about voting in Ecuador...

- It is obligatory. And unless someone goes through all the paperwork to change their permanent address, they are required to travel to their hometown to vote. Voting is always on a Sunday, and this year more than 500,000 people took public transportation over the weekend to vote.
- If you can't go to the polls for health reasons, you have to register ahead of time to vote from home. And the Friday before elections there is a swearing-in ceremony for those who go to people's houses to get their votes.
- It's a dry weekend. No stores, restaurants, or bars are allowed to sell alcohol from Friday at noon until Monday at noon. And individuals who are seen drinking alcohol during that time are fined more than \$200.

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