

Aschmann Action

September 2025

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

Bible translation

The Old Testament translation project for the Central Highland Quichua speaking peoples is well on its way in the final editing process. The translation team just had an important meeting the end of August and we adjusted some responsibilities and some priorities.

One of the things I am working hard on are all of the names in the Bible. Because we believe that the Bible is inerrant and that everything in it is there for a reason, we need to make sure that all the names are in there where they should be and spelled correctly. Quichua translator Daniel was careful to put them all in, but because many are unfamiliar Hebrew names, it is easy to misspell them or to leave one out. But one thing we know from reading God's Word is that God cares about each individual personally, so we need to exercise the same care. Thankfully the ParaText program has a system for tracking key terms, which includes names, but it's still a big job!

The Old Testament project for the Cofán speakers is still going strong too. It will take a bit longer, because that team is learning translation techniques as it goes along, and they started later.



Anne and Darcy shortly after arriving in Quito

Upcoming Baptisms

Several people coming to the little church plant in Pigulca, in the north of Ecuador, are interested in being baptized. The pastor in training, Segundo Anrango, and I will be meeting with these people in the next couple of weeks. And we are scheduling some teaching on church membership for October.

Betty's ministry

Keep praying for what God would have me do. The program, Corrientes, where I mentor young Latin Americans wanting to go to the mission field, is not going to happen this fall. I am disappointed because I really enjoy mentoring this group. And, though Corrientes may be up and going again in January, the long-term future of the program is in doubt because the director may be retiring. I feel a bit at a loose end right now. Please pray for wisdom for me as I look at what areas God may be leading me to minister in these next couple of years.

Anne's update

Anne got started teaching at Alliance Academy International in mid-August. She is adjusting well and really enjoys teaching. She has 5 classes: 7th grade math, three classes of pre-algebra, and algebra 2. And Darcy is adjusting well, too! Please keep Anne in your prayers as she is adjusting all her medications to brands available in Ecuador. She is also in need of some more monthly support. Here are her newsletters:

sites.google.com/view/anne-aschmann/news-and-prayer-letters.

And you can support her by clicking here: <https://rceinternational.givingfuel.com/staff>.

Prayer & Praise

- Please pray for the little church plant in Pigulca. We need a lot of wisdom as we move ahead with establishing a church and figuring out where to meet. Please also pray for Segundo, as there is so much to do and he could easily get overwhelmed.
- Continue praying for Nathan as he enters his junior year of college at Concordia, now on his own without his big sister.
- Continuing praying for the Central Highland Quichua Old Testament translation project as we continue to work on the many tasks required to finish it well. Pray also for the Cofán Old Testament translation project, that God would continue to bless their efforts.
- Praise for Anne's adjustment in her new role as a teacher at Alliance Academy here in Ecuador. And Darcy's adjustment, too!
- Continue to pray for our safety. The government here in Ecuador is fighting organized crime, which is really good. However, the drug gangs are actively fighting back, so violence is still a problem. We just thank the Lord that we have not had any problems personally.



There is a tradition in October in Ecuador. (No, it's not Halloween, and yes, Ecuador celebrates Halloween.)

There are 2 special foods prepared leading up to the Day of the Dead on November 2nd. The foods are called Colada Morada (purple drink) and Guaguas de Pan (bread babies). They were traditionally made to take to the graves for the spirits of the dead to have a special feast once a year. These days, thousands of people still visit the graves, decorate them, and eat these foods in memory of their loved ones.

The Colada Morada is a thick sweet drink that is made from a mixture of fruit and blue corn flour. It can be served hot or cold (we prefer it hot). Guagua is the Quichua word for baby, and this special bread is made and decorated to look like a baby. Most of the time there is a jelly or chocolate filling.

Colada Morada and Guaguas are traditionally available only in October and until the first weekend in November. However, like any other holiday item, businesses can make more money if they start selling earlier. This year, we have seen them available as early as the end of August, but most places don't have them till later.

Cultural Closeup



This was taken years ago, when we visited a cemetery on the weekend of November 2.



Colada Morada and a Guagua de Pan

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