

Dear Friends and Family,

In Daniel's vision, he prophesies of the "Son of Man" that "... **all peoples**, nations and men of **every language** worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." (Daniel 7:14). We praise God that in Ecuador we have the privilege of ministering to two of the many precious language groups in Christ's kingdom – Spanish and Quichua-speakers!

Personally and as a team, we continue to serve Spanish-speaking churches via mercy, development, discipleship & training ministries. However, this month we would like to share with you what God has been doing through some of **Team Ecuador's Quichua ministries**. Please join us in prayer and praise!

Women's Literacy and Discipleship

Stacy shares her experience from last Monday's class: *"A desire of mine has been to be able to teach basic math and have simple conversations with the ladies in their heart language. With the help of our Quichua language helper, I've learned the numbers and how to explain simple addition problems in Quichua. I tried it out this past Monday with one of the ladies in the beginner class, and the door opened wide. Rosa did her addition review page faster and with more confidence than usual, a connection was made between us, and it gave me the boost of confidence I needed to begin speaking some in Quichua with the ladies."* Stacy is now preparing to teach subtraction in Quichua. *"To see the huge smile and glimmer in Rosa's eyes when I began teaching her in her own language is every teacher's dream!"* **God be praised!**



In the area of discipleship, the ladies have been struggling with important Biblical issues reflected in some of their questions:

- ✘ "What does it really mean to be made in God's image?"
- ✘ "Are men and women equal before the Lord? If so, how do we serve each other in our different, God-given roles?"
- ✘ "Salvation is a personal matter? I thought I was a Christian because my parents and grandparents are!"

These issues hit hard at the both the personal and cultural level for Quichua believers. **Please pray** for them as they wrestle with these Biblical truths and that they, their marriages, families and church will reflect God's glory and truth to their community, Quito and beyond.

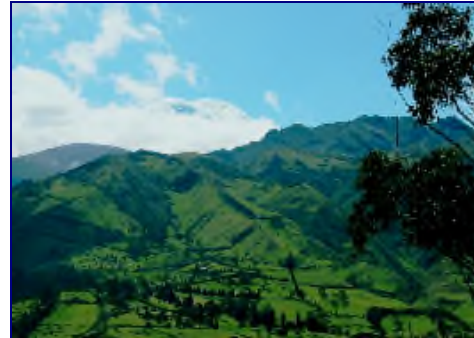
Guaranda "Bible Institute" *off to a great start!*

As you can appreciate from the photo, the response to the "Bible Institute" in Guaranda (gwa-RAHN-dah) has been overwhelming! Over 70 students met at "Ambassadors of Christ" Church on April 1st to begin their first course: "The Body of Christ", a 13 lesson study on the nature & mission of the church. The students include pastors, leaders and church members from approximately 19 different Quichua communities.



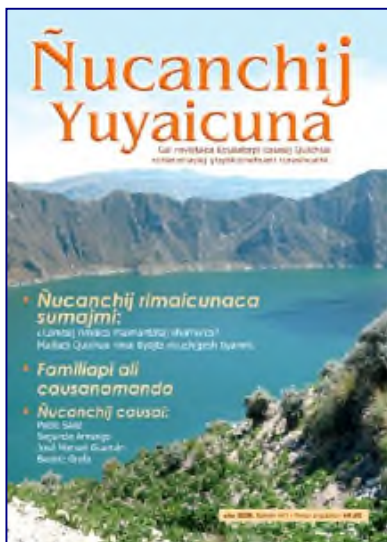
This institute will be staffed by MTW missionaries and national partners. However, since Guaranda is a 4-hour drive from Quito, the all-day Saturday classes are scheduled every 3-weeks – while students prepare their lessons between classes.

We **praise God** for this great start! **Please pray** that the Spirit would enable the students to apply what they learn to their own lives and begin to share what they're learning in their churches and communities. **Pray also** for our national partners Ramiro Araujo and Segundo Anrango as they lead Team Ecuador in developing a 2-year curriculum that will best meet the needs of these students and their churches.



Three students from the Institute share their smiles!
From the green mountain valley near Guaranda, you can see the snowcapped Mt. Chimborzo in the distance.

“Our Thoughts” Quichua Magazine



Praise God that after over a year in the making, the first edition of this 28-page magazine is ready to go to press! Written mostly *by* and exclusively *for* the Quichuas of Ecuador, to the best of our knowledge the “Our Thoughts” magazine, is the *only* periodical of *any kind* printed in the Quichua language. With over 3 million Quichua speakers in this country, **please pray** with us that the magazine would:

- ✘ Encourage Quichuas to *read more fluently*.
- ✘ Encourage and enable Quichuas to *read and understand the Bible in their heart language*.
- ✘ Equip Quichuas with needed *evangelism & discipleship resources*.
- ✘ Encourage *greater unity* among regional Quichua Christian groups.
- ✘ Enable the MTW missionary team to *expand its training, equipping and mercy ministries* to a broader number of Quichua churches.

On a practical note, **please pray** God would enable this ministry to become financially self-sustaining within the first 2 to 3 issues. We are thankful that a generous donation from Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church’s “Jabez Fund”, has enabled this pioneer ministry to get off the ground! We **praise God** that he has uniquely gifted our teammates, Rick Aschmann (MTW missionary) and Segundo Anrango (Ecuadorian ministry partner), to lead this ministry! For a peek at the magazine & the Quichua.net website in English, follow this link:

<http://quichua.net/Ec/English.html>

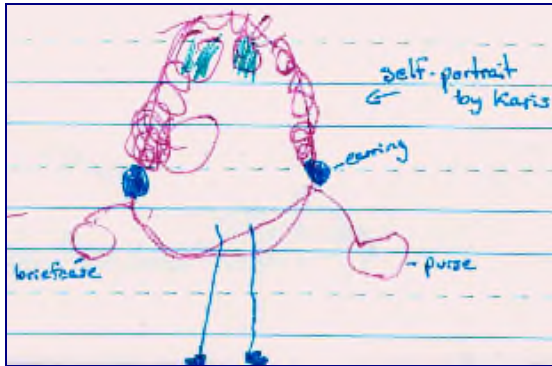
We are learning, right?

As you may remember, we’re *attempting* to learn to speak Quichua. Rick Aschmann (our team’s linguist!) is patiently teaching us. We also have a Quichua friend who helps us practice once a week. The grammar we use is titled: *Quichua in 10 Easy Lessons (The Other 40 Are More Difficult!)* We started lesson 11 this week...hmmm. So far Craig’s “best” mistake is mispronouncing the title of our Quichua magazine. Instead of pronouncing Y’s in ‘yuyaicuna’, he substituted double L’s. So according to Craig, the magazine is now entitled “Our *Lies*” instead of “Our *Thoughts*”. Oops! (Rick politely told Craig that this was a mistake a native Quichua speaker would never make ☺. We’re sure this is true!)

Family News

Craig and Stacy: On April 15th we celebrated 6 awesome years of marriage with trip to a museum followed by a traditional and yummy Ecuadorian stew (Fanesca) served only at Easter. Fanesca is a very thick stew with a variety of beans and peas, corn, pumpkin, milk, fish, etc. As we ate, we reflected on these last 6 years and were in awe at how the Lord has deepened our love for each other and for Him and how it is an honor, privilege and joy to be able to love, serve and be best friends for each other! We are excited about “growing older” together! ☺ The Lord is so graciously wonderful!

Karis and Aimee: In April, our girls have done some “adapting” to Latin culture. As you can tell from the pictures, they both got their ears pierced. In Latin America and many other places around the world, baby girls, sometimes within the first few days of life, receive their earrings – a job done by the pediatrician or nurse. Culturally, the earrings help distinguish the boys from the girls (like in the US, pink clothing and other items for girls and blue, for boys). People look for the earrings, when they don’t see them, they assume that the baby/child is a boy regardless of what the child is wearing. After Karis got her earrings, she exclaimed to Stacy, “I’m a lady now! I have earrings just like you, Mommy!” As for Aimee, she does not even know she has them because she is so young. But with her sporty pigtails and earrings, she definitely looks like a little girl and not a baby anymore! My how time zooms by!



They both are learning fast! Karis has been learning to write the alphabet. Stacy and Karis have a little corner in the guest room where they have school (or “pretend school” as Karis calls it) three days a week. She can now write her whole name and has also begun drawing people (see her self-portrait above). She really loves school time and looks forward to going to real school (Pre-K) at the end of August at Alliance Academy.

Aimee has been walking, climbing, “running” and trying to jump up a storm. She has also been learning to talk. Her words, which are few, are a mix between Spanish and English, but her understanding of both languages is pretty fluent for a child her age.

May/June Praise & Prayer

- 1) We thank God for a strong start to the **Bible Institute in Guaranda**. Please pray that it might be a blessing to the Quichua churches of the Bolivar province; also pray for wisdom as our team develops a two-year curriculum.
- 2) We praise God for the completion of the first edition of “**Our Thoughts**” Magazine. Pray that it might be amply distributed among the 3 million Quichua-speakers of this country so that it might be a tool used by God to strengthen and foster unity among the Quichua churches of Ecuador.
- 3) Pray that God guide our team to hire a well-qualified, Christian, **Ecuadorian accountant** during the month of May.
- 4) Pray that Stacy and I would continue to progress in **learning to speak Quichua** (this is a long-term proposal, but we do praise God for some progress!)

5) Team Transitions:



Frank & Darlene Helmly ❖ **Dennis & Natalie Booth** ❖ **Mike & Robin McMahan (Whitney, Waverly, William & Wendy)**

- ✘ We praise God for **Frank and Darlene Helmly** who after several years of faithful service in Quito, have re-located to South Carolina. Frank is pursuing a career in engineering while Darlene will continue to help the MTW Atlanta office with special projects.
- ✘ **Dennis and Natalie Booth** have also been faithful in the Lord's work both in Peru and Ecuador for the last 18 years! They will completing their missionary service and begin making a new home in Florida this summer.
- ✘ We praise the Lord, that **Mike and Robin McMahan** after having served as short-term missionaries for two years in Guayaquil, are now coming as career missionaries to Quito. Please pray that the remaining 18% of their monthly support could be raised during the month of May so that they may arrive in June! William and Wendy will remain in the states to attend college, while Whitney and Waverly will begin 11th grade in Quito this fall.

6) Pray that the Lord would continue to deepen our love for each other and that **Christ would always be the center** of our lives, marriage, family and ministry!!



Your partners in Christ's Service,

Craig, Stacy, Karis & Aimee

Serving in Ecuador with Mission to the World

Personal correspondence (you may use either address):

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Donations Address: *(Make checks to the underlined name but note that the donation is for Craig & Stacy Pohl Account # 16019)*

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