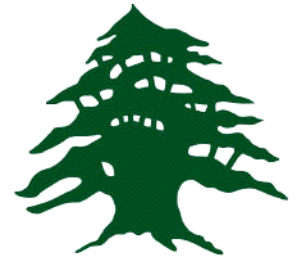


# *A meditation on the healthy church*

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(Ñucanchij Yuyaicuna) Quichua Magazine

*Dear Reader,*

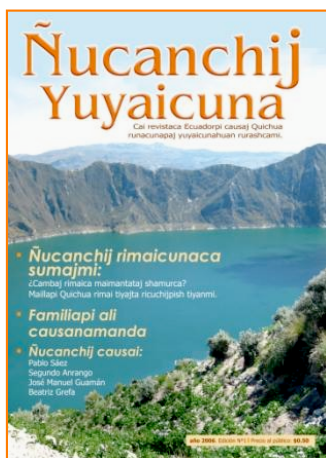
In His Word, God compares his people to a strong, healthy tree: “*I will be like the dew to Israel... Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots; his young shoots will grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon.*” (Hosea 14:5-6) What a beautiful image representing the promise of God to bless those who trust in Him! However in order that one be blessed with such vigor and vitality, it is essential that His people remain rooted to their source of life – Christ.



Israel’s perennial problem – and ours as well – is that we tend to depend on *everything else besides Christ!* All too often, we trust either in our own abilities or in external resources like family, community or government. Whatever our tendency might be, the prophet calls us with tenderness and urgency to return to the root of our life: “*Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall!*” (Hosea 14:1) As we return to God, confessing our sins he responds with pure grace: “*I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.*” (Hosea 14:4)

As a strong, healthy tree, we have two key responsibilities: First, to recognize that our “fruit” is the product of pure grace – nothing that we’ve done. God reminds us of this when he says “... *your fruitfulness comes from me*”. (Hosea 14:8) Christ similarly instructs us: “*If a man remains in me, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*” (John 15:5)

Secondly, we must recognize both the privilege and responsibility that we have as the people of God toward the world. A tree does not keep its fruit, fragrance and shade for itself, but rather shares its abundance with those around it (Hosea 14:7). The mission of the church is as big as the word itself – we must be “salt and light” in every corner of this globe.



Our desire is that the Quichua church of Ecuador be strengthened in three key areas: (1) At its *root* – depending purely on Christ as its only foundation. (2) In its *fruit* – that the church grow in strong, healthy ways. (3) In its *outreach* – that the church would be a great blessing in its service to the community, nation and world.

In this first edition of *Our Thoughts Magazine* (Ñucanchij Yuyaicuna), Quichua brothers and sisters from various regions throughout Ecuador share their thoughts about topics relating to diverse aspects of our lives. Our desire is that this magazine would serve as a tool in God’s hands to strengthen the root, the fruit and the out reach of His people in this world.

*To God be the Glory,*

The Editorial Committee