

The McMahan March 2010 Update

News for Friends, Family, and Partners

March 4, 2010

Dear Praying friends,

We want to thank you first and foremost for your continued prayers and financial support for our ministry here in Ecuador. It is a privilege to serve here, and you help make that possible. The last few weeks have been busy and our team is preparing for some very important events in the ministry of the team and in the McMahan's ministry.

Two weeks ago we had a meeting with several people from Pigulca, the Quichua community where we are working and where Robin is doing her Master's Degree project. A major part of Robin's project is the community garden. The garden has produced a harvest of Swiss chard, carrots, cilantro, radishes, beets, and onions. However, they had not replanted the garden after harvesting these crops. Part of the reason for not replanting is a lack of rain and part of it is a lack of organization. We began the meeting with Robin giving the group (mostly women with a couple of men) a devotional about sowing and reaping, which led to a conversation about the nature of man and sin and our need for reconciliation. Pray that those involved in the community garden will continue to work together on replanting the garden. Pray also for rain because they need it for not only the garden but also for the crops in the community. Most importantly, pray that God will give a harvest of souls as he opens the door for us to preach the Good News in Pigulca.



On Sunday we had the privilege of going with several of our team members to the dedication of a new version of the Central Highlands Quichua New Testament. Teammate Rick Aschmann (on the right in the photo, reading from the New Testament), as well as David Strumbeck, a former teammate, (now a pastor in Pennsylvania) were very involved in the translation of the Bible. It was the first time that we had been to a Bible dedication and it was a great event to see how the Quichuas received the new translation.

The good news is that for several years the Central Highlands Quichua Bible has been not been available, since it was out of print. We praise God for this Bible and we pray for the continued work of the translators working on the Old Testament. Pray that God will use this to advance His kingdom among the Central Highlands Quichua.

This next weekend marks a very important event in the life of our team with regard to Quichua ministry. We will be having a conference in Paltabamba with representatives from three Quichua churches. One of the churches is the only Quichua Presbyterian Church in Ecuador (Bethany Church), located near Guayaquil. The host church, Star of Bethlehem, is in Paltabamba, and strongly desires to become a Presbyterian church. The third church is Sowers of Christ Church here in Quito, which is interested in knowing more about becoming a Presbyterian Church. Rick Aschmann, team leader Craig Pohl and national partner Segundo Anrango, as well as two elders from Bethany Church will be teaching about Presbyterianism and the steps necessary to become a Presbyterian church. Pray for this conference and that God will guide all in decisions regarding these churches.

While several of our team members are in Paltabamba, we along with national partner Cecilia Balareso will be in Pucará de San Roque, a Quichua community near Otavalo, doing a Christian

teacher's training and literacy training with some of the members of the church there. We have had a relationship with this church for some time and they have asked us to come and teach literacy so the women can read their Bibles. Instead of doing all of the teaching ourselves, we are going to equip some of the members to do most of the teaching.

About two weeks ago we began a new small group in our home. We are studying J.I. Packer's Knowing God, which is a wonderful study of the attributes of God. In an effort to support the work at Grace Church (where we attend), we want to encourage those who are not already in a small group to participate. At the same time, we want to reach out to others who do not know the Lord. Please pray for this group, that we would invite new people and make them feel welcome. At the same time, pray that this study on God's attributes would further deepen our love for Him and our understanding of what great things He has done for us.



In a previous update we mentioned an initiative between the mission and the Quito Presbytery in working together toward planting of new churches or revitalizing existing churches. Mike is one of the representatives of the mission on a commission of the Presbytery in working on this initiative which is called Growing together in Christ. The weekend of March 12-14 two church planters from the MTW team in Monterrey, Mexico will come to do an initial conference on church planting/revitalization. They will also do an evaluation of all four of the Presbyterian churches and their leaders. Over the next few months the commission will look through these evaluations of both churches and leaders to make some decisions regarding next steps. In June there will be a second and more extensive training with church and presbytery leaders on church planting. The commission hopes to begin new church planting and/or revitalization initiatives by September or October of this year. Pray for the conference this month that God will use it to advance His kingdom here in Ecuador. Pray also for wisdom for the all those involved in decision-making regarding future church planting here in Quito. Additionally, pray for wisdom for us regarding how we will be involved in future works here.

Thanks so much for your prayers regarding our health. We are exercising regularly and eating better. As a result both of us are losing some extra weight, and Mike's back is much improved. Please continue to pray for us in this area, because when the schedule gets complicated, it is often difficult to maintain the discipline necessary for a healthy lifestyle.

Again, we are so thankful for your partnership with us here in Ecuador. God is using your prayers to accomplish His will here. Please let us know how we can pray for you as well.

In Christ's Service,
Mike and Robin McMahan

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