The Ministry Newsletter of Ron & Peg Smith

~~June~~ July 2003

What's up with the Smiths!

As you can see from Benjamin's drawing, we are back in Guayaquil, feeling a bit like "The Waldos" lost in the big city!

We arrived in early April, and for the past three months we have been trying to get re-acclimated to life and ministry. We expected that we would have *some* "readjustment problems" after more than a three-year absence, but we are surprised by how difficult the readjustment has been.

Before we go any further, we *must* tell you how the Lord answered your prayers and blessed us with a home that exactly meets our needs. An additional and unexpected blessing came when our real estate agent, an old friend and neighbor from our last time here, begged us to take her three bed frames, a large dresser and a table "for as long as we need them." So when we moved into our house, we at least had a place to sleep!

On the ministry side, now that the "new" Guayaquil Church Planting Team is in place, we are revising and refining our Vision and Mission statements and adjusting various ministry responsibilities to best accomplish our goal of generating a church planting movement that will spread the Reformed faith to all of Ecuador, beginning here in Guayaquil. Our own contribution to the process is on two related fronts.

First, I am overseeing the ministry at Iglesia San Agustín, the church plant we began during our first tour, and Peg is working with children and equipping leaders for the church's children's ministry. We want San Agustín to be the "ministry model" for future Presbyterian churches, so my work there fits in well with my other contribution to the team, which is in the area of teaching, training and mentoring men who will become our future church planters, elders and deacons.

We're setting the stage for growth at San Agustín. As of the first Sunday in July, we have Ecuadorians overseeing the church's various ministries, including Worship Teams, a prayer and pastoral care team, Children's Education, a youth group, a Singles group, and five weekly Bible studies in either Spanish or English. This give me more time to concentrate on preaching, pastoring, praying, equipping, motivating and leading the congregation forward. As the people deepen their personal involvement in ministry, we will work together to develop a Mission and Vision for San Agustín.

To Write Or Call The Smiths

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Prayer Needs

Patience and perseverance in the ministry
Spiritual growth at San Agustín
Expanding relationships for the Gospel
Good management of time and opportunity