



Holden Newsletter - August 2016

We hope the following highlights will help you find and read what interests you!

Main Topics **Main Points** **Praises/Requests**

Dear Friend, Encourager, Partner-in-Mission,

WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS (NOR WISCONSIN) ANYMORE !

On August 8 we experienced the second of two earthquakes, in Quito, in the past few months. This large capital city with its 2.5 million people and tall and narrow cement buildings does not make an ideal place to survive the damage and death that an earthquake can bring. So far, our home has not been damaged, even with the coastal earthquakes and aftershocks which we felt in Quito throughout this past year. Homes here share walls with the neighbors but the homes next-door are only 2-story structures. Our landlady's home is on the 3rd story above us, and therefore, does not have any supporting structures on either side. With this last earthquake of 4.7 and its epicenter just a few miles away, we later discovered that the north wall of our her home received some significant cracks. Ecuador's Geophysical Institute, studying the movement of Ecuador's earth-plates, is presently concerned about a large earthquake of 7.0 or larger which they suspect may hit Quito in the future. Only God knows for sure. But we are here for "such a time as this" being that Darrell is the Crisis Management Coordinator of Reach Beyond. We have a "peace" that lacks all human understanding and know that we are called to served in these times of crisis.

Also in August, we were informed, by our landlady, of a robbery/stabbing/murder that took place in the alley located just three houses away from our front door. Because of this event, a gentlemen in our neighborhood warned Darrell to only walk the main streets during his 5 am. week-day walk to catch the bus. We are blessed by the people of our neighborhood who look out for and inform one another. We are very aware that the number of robberies, thefts, and other crimes have recently been increasing because of the present economic state of this country. Many people are losing jobs and homes, and their families are going hungry because of the lack or limit of finances to help those in need at this time. We consider it an honor and privilege to be available to comfort and direct those who need to seek the Lord to meet all their fears and supply all of their needs. As of August 11, we have lived here for 2 years and intend to stay for as long as the Lord desires.

PACKING SUITCASES (AGAIN) !

Throughout the month of August, once again, we placed orders, made plans, and carried out (with the help of friends) the logistics for packing up 1 ½ suitcases of items needed from the U.S. to be brought here by our upcoming guest in September. We now feel that we, finally, have all that we need (which is good because we have no more space in our small apartment to put anything)! The only items needed in the future will be our replacement supply of natural medicines, supplements, and some personal products which we prefer to purchase in the U.S. These items can only be brought into the country in limited amounts, therefore, we will pray and wait for visitors and other missionaries to bring us our supplies a little at a time. Then when Darrell (and Sondra?) return to the U.S. every 2 years, we plan to re-stock our personal items and ministry donations at that time. We thank God for each and every person involved in helping us receive these much needed items!

CARCELEN FIRE DEPARTMENT COMES TO THE RESCUE !

For the past 2 years, we've been managing without a clothes-dryer. The dry and sunny Quito climate, which is present most of the time, is conducive to drying clothes outdoors on the roof-top. But as our schedules become busier and with the rains which often come with little or no warning, we finally decided it was time to hook-up the electric clothes-dryer given to us by another missionary. We actually made this decision several months ago but first had to research how to go about hooking up the 220-volt electric in order to run it. Darrell discovered the 220 service existed on the outside of our building but it only went to the first story where our landlady's son runs his business. So, after seeking the advice of a few missionaries and Ecuadorian acquaintances, he decided to tackle the job. Darrell had 2 options: 1) drill holes through 4 very thick cement walls to get the cable through the inside of the house and then up the stairway to the rooftop where the dryer is, 2) run a tube with the inserted cable over the roof-top to the terrace at the back of the house which would require a very tall ladder. He opted for the second choice and asked the Carcelen Fire Dept. if he could use the ladder for about 15 minutes to which they agreed. Much to our (and our neighbor's) surprise they delivered the ladder with the firetruck and brought 3 guys with to help. Despite complications and the 15 minutes now turning into 1 ½ hours, Darrell and his 3 firefighter buddies got the job done! We later shared a lasagna dinner at home with the guys as an expression of our gratitude, and we are now enjoying the luxury of using a clothes-dryer! Praise God for His provision through relationships!



CONNECTING THE DOTS

On August 22, I (Sondra) had the opportunity to meet Jerry Carnill, the founder of Extreme Response. Jerry, who was once a missionary with Reach Beyond/HCJB Radio managing visiting teams that came to serve with the mission, discovered there were people living in the Zambiza dump. Story: <https://youtu.be/DZGtCVU-P1M> Out of that discovery, and with the Lord moving his heart in a new direction, Jerry and his family began meeting first with the children, and then their parents, working together to build relationships, help meet needs, and later introducing them to their Provider. Out of the weekly children's ministry grew a daycare, a medical clinic, ministries for the adults and an annual Christmas celebration for the dump-worker families of Zambiza. Little did Jerry know that the Lord would then grow this ministry into a global outreach! Click on the links below to learn more about Jerry Carnill's journey and this global ministry: 1) <https://youtu.be/rjdmRWf03H4> , 2) <https://youtu.be/0UDsO7bUBT0>



My journey began in 2005 when I first visited the Zambiza dump with Operation Christmas Child. Now today, I am serving at Extreme Response's - Quito Family Resource Center (QFRC), encouraging the women dump-workers and helping their children with their educational needs. Veronica, 7 yrs old, - - > is one of the dozen or so children who I help to learn English and assist with homework (in Spanish). We praise God for your prayers and financial support so I can be a part of helping to give these precious little ones a life outside of the dump.



After my visit to the U.S. this spring, I was blessed to be able to bring back school supply kits (and toothpaste, toothbrushes, and socks) donated by the Sunday School children of Woodlands Church in Wisconsin. The parents, of the 40 children who are enrolled in the before/after school program at the QFRC, earn less than \$8 per day. They are not able to purchase the uniforms and supplies that the schools require. Extreme Response donors and generous people like you, help to get these children off to a great start to the new school year! THANKS!



The first time I began helping with the younger children's program in the afternoon at the QFRC, I knew this was where I was meant to be. These precious young ones are the next generation who will have a chance for a new life outside of working in the dump. The a.m. and p.m. children's program has 40 participants with the oldest, a 17 yr old, who is the first child of many generations of Zambiza dump-workers to graduate from high school! There are 2 teachers who work with the older children. I, Sondra, and one other Ecuadorian teacher work with the youngest ones.



This is Tyria -she's 5 yrs old. She struggles with focusing and comprehension but she is eager to please and to learn. The first time we set eyes on each other there was a God - directed bond between us! Tyria often comes to the program with dirty hair and an unpleasant body odor; likely because her family has no shower and possibly only a rain-barrel as their water source. At the QFRC, Tyria, and 39 other children like her, receive not only a hot meal, activity programming, and educational instruction, but Biblical instruction and spiritual guidance as well.

If I can be a small part of Tyria and her family coming to know and rely on a Savior who not only loves them deeply but is faithful to provide for their every need, then I consider it a humble honor to have this "not-so-clean" little girl hug me, jump into my arms, sit on my lap, and climb all over me! This is GOD'S child - she is not only on MY VIP LIST but more importantly, she is on HIS!

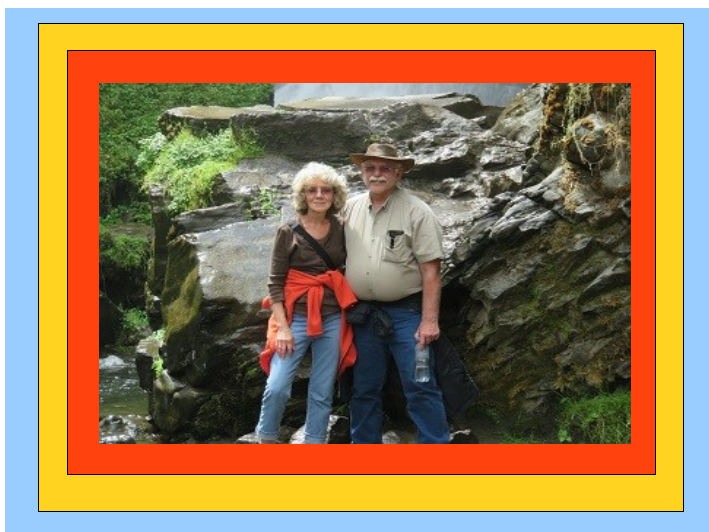
Please Pray:

- For God's provision for the people of Ecuador who are suffering from the devastation of the April 2016 earthquake and the economic crisis caused by the severe drop in oil prices.
- For God's provision for an additional volunteer/missionary teacher to help with the QFRC's before/after school program.
- For God's direction, strength and provision as we prepare for our next 2 years of ministry work here in Ecuador !



Darrell and Sondra Holden

Serving with Ripe For Harvest - Partnering with Reach Beyond - Ecuador, S.A.



Send Your Financial Gifts to:

Ripe For Harvest
Acct 20319
PO Box 487
Monument CO 80132-0487

Our Email:

dsholden.ec@gmail.com

Our Personal Website:

www.ReachBeyondTheMountains.com

Our Skype Name:

dsholden1

Our Ecuador Cell:

593-099-908-2264

Mail Letters & Cards Locally To:

Darrell and Sondra Holden, c/o Tina Bush, 1250 Peach St, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Mail Letters & Cards Directly To:

Darrell y Sondra Holden
REACH BEYOND
Casilla 17-17-691
Quito, Ecuador 170508
SOUTH AMERICA

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Darrell y Sondra Holden
REACH BEYOND (frente el Hospital Vozandes)
Oe-52 Villalengua y 10 de Agosto
Quito, Ecuador 170508
SOUTH AMERICA

