

Dear Friend, Encourager, Partner-in-Mission,

*It is incredible to think that our last newsletter was sent out in early August! **The past three months have been extraordinarily busy and challenging but God remains in the center of it all.** Amid all the activity, the struggles, and the unexpected, His plan prevails and we are excited to be a part of that plan with you coming alongside us in that journey. Simply saying “thank you for your prayers” seems trivial when in reality, without them, we don’t know how we’d be coping. **As we share this three-part newsletter with you, we hope you will join us in giving God all the glory for what He has done!***

A Young Man From Wisconsin

Sometimes people are unaware of all the hard work that goes into a project. Whether it be a sermon you hear on Sunday, a church bulletin you receive, or a missionary blog that is written, there is always a tremendous amount of work that has taken place behind the scenes that goes unnoticed in order to achieve the finished product. We have been blessed with having a young man from our home church, in Wisconsin, who came alongside us in missions, serving as our web-master for over the past year. Nicolas, a high school student of John and Andrea Knapp, has spent countless hours reading emailed instructions and making significant changes to our website. **We are now very happy to say that our website is a complete and very wonderful work** which Nicolas can be very proud of. Despite, home-school classes, projects, homework, extracurricular activities, and preparing for his post-high school plans, Nicolas has given of his time to help us further the kingdom of God. How? We have small business-type cards with our names, the name of our mission, and the name of our website which we hand out to folks not only in the U.S. but to Ecuadorians as well. **Although most of the web pages are written in English, the 'About Jesus' page shares the Gospel written in both English and Spanish. There is also a link where the viewer can watch 'The Jesus Film' in either language. We encourage you to take the time to look over our website at www.ReachBeyondTheMountains.com and please to tell others about it.**

Walking Where Others Have Walked

In mid-August, we were so excited to know that we were given the opportunity to visit Shell, Ecuador, at the edge of the Amazon jungle. Reach Beyond sent Darrell to teach Emergency Management to the teachers at the Nate Saint School. Both Darrell and I were excited and grateful for this opportunity to serve both Reach Beyond and other missionary staff in this way. The teachers of the Nate Saint School belong to various mission agencies and devote their time running a school for the children of jungle missionaries. Nate Saint's vision was that a school for missionary children would be built so that their parents serving in the Shell Mera area of the jungle would not have to send them off to a boarding school in Quito, several hours away. He was killed before that vision became a reality.

We stayed at "The Big House" owned by Reach Beyond for five days and also spent time visiting with some of the jungle missionaries. One such couple, ministers to Christian leaders of the Waorani Indians; the same tribe who fatally speared Nate Saint, Jim Elliot and three other missionaries in the Amazon jungle in 1956. ----->



Another couple had just returned to Shell to serve six more months after having already served in the past. During their first term, they adopted an Ecuadorian baby from the jungle hospital. Her mother had come to the hospital saying that she had a "growth" in her stomach and wanted it removed. Suspecting that this married woman may have been raped and was now possibly carrying someone's baby other than her husband's, they tried to convince the woman that they would not only help her give birth to the child but come alongside her and minister to her in this difficult situation. But the woman responded, "If you try to make me keep this baby, I will just throw it in the woods on my way home". So, hearing of this situation, this N. American couple decided to make this baby girl their own. Their decision to return to Ecuador during these current six months, was not only to serve Reach Beyond but to give their daughter a chance to see where her roots are. **What a joy it was to spend time with this family and to hear how the Lord "saved" this baby girl both physically and spiritually.**----->



Just outside of "The Big House" we could hear the sounds of local traffic out one window and out the other we could hear monkeys, birds and some rather unfamiliar sounds. **Each morning and evening as God's "critters" of the jungle awoke and then prepared to sleep during the night we were reminded that we were no longer in Stevens Point, or Quito, for that matter. Our daily experience of walking over the "suspension bridge" added to that reality.** Darrell, being a firefighter has no fear of heights or "seemingly dangerous" situations. Sondra, on the other hand, would not walk over the bridge unless no one else was on it because of it bouncing up and down and swaying from side to side! After several trips across the bridge and as her knees finally stopped shaking, she could simply enjoy God's creation as she stop focusing on the bridge and enjoyed the view of the jungle tree-tops and the rushing river below. ----->



At the end of our 5 wonderful days in Shell, we were given the opportunity for a personal tour of Nate Saint's house. The most amazing was the "radio room" where his wife, Marj, would keep in contact with her husband and other missionaries via short-wave radio throughout the jungle in which they ministered to the unreached tribal peoples. To actually see and touch the woven baskets in which they dropped gifts to the Waorani people, in hope that they would make friendly contact with them, was something we will never forget. -----> **In November, we will be spending a few more days in Shell while Darrell teaches Emergency Management to the jungle missionaries and visits the Shell Fire Department.**



The Rocky Path of Commitment

Earlier this year, Sondra made contact with a leader of Extreme Response International (ER) wanting to explore and re-explore more options in ministry. Many missionaries from Reach Beyond spend time serving in one or more of their ministries in their "spare time". Sondra is now serving in three of those ministries. Read more at <http://www.ExtremeResponse.org>

1) In 2011, she was introduced to their ministry, **Alma Libre ("Free Soul")**, which serves inmates and parolees of local prisons. Since our return last year, she continues working in that ministry, weekly, as an assistant, teaching English and sharing devotionals and Scriptures with approximately 15 male and female parolees. In approximately nine months, when the intern-teacher will return to the U.S., Sondra will be teaching the classes on her own.

2) During her first mission-trip to Ecuador in 2005, she was introduced to another of the ER ministries, the **Zambiza Dump Ministry**, which serves the families who work in the local dump/transfer station. She is now involved in weekly ministry at the Quito Family Resource Center, mentoring and encouraging the women from Zambiza and helping in the before/after-school program for their children.

3) While trying to make contact with the leader of the "dump ministry", she was mistakenly referred to the wrong person. But as God would have it, this was no mistake, because Sondra was now talking to, the leader of **Dunamis**, a ministry of ER that serves young (10-17 year-old) girls rescued from **prostitution and other forms of human-trafficking**. Boris, a young Colombian man, and his family, have been called by God to help these young girls to not return to their former lifestyle. Each week, Dunamis transports them from a local government-run shelter to a facility where they learn jewelry-making, computer, and sewing skills. Each day, they also participate in a devotional and Bible-reading time, receive and help in preparing a healthy morning snack, and learn the responsibility of participating in chores.

After meeting with Boris and his family, sharing a meal with them in our home, and six weeks of prayer, **Sondra has committed to helping Dunamis in the following ways: a) Praying for the girls and the ministry, b) helping with special projects at the facility such as cleaning, repair, and painting, c) finding creative ways to sell the jewelry that the girls make (which provides them with a fund to help them get "on their feet"), and d) helping to raise funds to expand the workshop space at the facility and to prepare for the construction of a permanent home for the girls in the future.**

An interesting comment made by Boris, was that **any person committing to long-term ministry with Dunamis needs to be on their knees every morning**. His experience with other ministry workers is that Satan (and the traffickers) are not happy with anyone helping these girls. A number of ministry workers have experienced numerous spiritual attacks and their lives can also be put in physical danger. Just two days after meeting with Boris and Fernanda in our home and making a commitment to serve, Darrell fell down a flight of stairs just outside of his office. He walks down these steps several times a day and does not know how it happened. He hit his head and landed on a wrist that he formerly broke in five places a few years ago. He's had a few physical therapy and chiropractor appointments to help with the discomfort. Now, after several weeks, it seems to be returning to normal. **Although we continue to have numerous attacks in other areas of our lives, Sondra is still committed not only to serving in Dunamis but in each of these ministries as God has made it clear that He is leading her to serve in these areas.**

The Psalm 68:10 Project

We've been working for several months, trying to set up **a special account with Ripe For Harvest, our mission agency, where we can have people contribute to special projects that we serve in.** Normally, setting up one of these accounts is a relatively easy process. But because this account will be used to raise funds to help with Dunamis (and other special projects), it seems that once again, the enemy has tried to interfere for some time.

But by the grace of God, the process has finally been completed. **In future newsletters and on the homepage of our website, we will announce what those specific projects are and will be. We encourage you to pray about whether you'd like to get involved in one of the following ways:**

1) support the project financially through the special project fund, 2) commit to praying for the project, 3) be a part of a short-term mission team to help with the special project here in Ecuador, 4) give regularly into this fund so that we can use the money for any of the future projects God leads us and/or a team to serve in. 5) or, if you are a member of Thrivent, (<http://www.thrivent.com/about-us>), you can donate your quarterly or annual Choice Dollars to Ripe For Harvest and ask that they designate that money to our Psalm 68:10 Project Fund!

We chose the name "Psalm 68:10 Project" for this account because God's Word says, "...your people settled in it, and from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor". God has settled it in our heart's to serving him in the ways that he has called us and we trust Him to provide for those we are serving".

Sharing a Meal With Former Prisoners

In late August members of the Alma Libre ministry held a picnic for some of the parolee women we ministered to in the former El Inca Prison (which has since been shut down by the government). It had been four years since Sondra had seen Ashiru from Nigeria, Vicky from the Philippines, Zandile from S. Africa, or Anisa from Indonesia. Ashiru is now very active in a local church, Vicky has completed school and works as a massage therapist, and although Zandile is still looking for work, she will soon be volunteering to spend some time with the girls of Dunamis and share her testimony with them! **Today, each of these women are not only, "almost free" from their judicial placement under the Ecuadorian government, but they are now "set free" in Christ!** What a joyous reunion to be with them again here in Ecuador! ----- >



Sharing A Meal With Reach Beyond's President

In late August, Wayne Pederson and his new bride, Willi, came to Ecuador from the U.S. to encourage and meet with Reach Beyond's missionaries serving in the Latin American Region. Darrell and I, among others, were given the opportunity to meet with them and share a meal together. What a special opportunity it was to learn more about each other and about what God is doing in and through our organization and it's missionaries and the new direction in which He is leading !

Please pray

- * that the Lord provides, by January, someone to enter our bi-monthly newsletter/updates to the website
- * that Darrell's new contact with the Shell Fire Department will bring forth fruit
- * for strength and endurance until the spiritual attacks pass
- * for wisdom in selecting and organizing future special projects
- * that Zandile's time of sharing her testimony will reach the hearts of the girls at Dunamis
- * for clear direction and perseverance for Reach Beyond staff and missionaries as the Lord leads this mission organization in a new and exciting direction.



Darrell and Sondra Holden

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in Ecuador, South America



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 Ecuador Cell:

099-908-2264

Our Skype Name:

dsholden1

Send Letters/Cards/Gifts Locally to:

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

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Casilla 17-17-691
Quito, Ecuador
SOUTH AMERICA

