

Dear Friend, Encourager, Partner-in-Mission,

A Helping Hand and a Green-Thumb

Tempy and George McCombe, former missionaries of Reach Beyond, now volunteers since retirement, were here Quito for six weeks. Tempy, whose former career was real-estate, is very talented in design. Each year she donates her time and talent to help “spruce up” our mission facility. This year some of her focus was the outside and inside greenery. Tempy and I spent three days shopping in the little village of Nayon which is famous for its greenery and gardening accessories. We returned with three pick up truckloads full of plants, pots, rocks, soil, fertilizer, etc. Then, **I began working on two very large gardening projects.** One was the make-over of several outside garden areas at the Harmony Hall missionary housing unit. The other was a complete re-design of the entryway of the Quito Connection missionary guesthouse. **I spent over 60 hours in two weeks working on the projects and, with Tempy's help, was able to complete it all before leaving for Wisconsin at the end of the month.**

We thank the Lord for providing me with a 'helping hand' and a 'green thumb' !



A Faithful God and A Woman Growing In Faith

Back in October, I met Sonia, a dump worker whose one-room, dirt-floor home, was destroyed by an avalanche. Life was hard enough for Sonia and her husband, working 60 hours per week picking recycling from the local dump and making approximately \$8 for 12 hours of work. But when Sonia and her husband's home was destroyed, followed by digging their five-yr old daughter out of the rubble, life became unbearable. **The trembling hands of Sonia and the pain in her husband's eyes cut like a knife through my heart. All I could do was reassure them that despite how things appeared and how they felt, God is still faithful.**

Extreme Response and the QFRC went to work immediately and found the family a small place to rent. But paying rent, on a dump worker's wage, means not eating. So we gave the QFRC some groceries, personal items and extra money to buy fresh produce that would last Sonia's family approximately six months. **Our gifts were anonymous to the family and we prayed that they would begin to look to the Lord as their provider.**

Sonia typically went to the QFRC once a month, but only to receive her extra income made from selling her handmade crosses. She **would not attend the weekly activities and Bible study with the other women from Zambiza**. It takes time to convince these women that taking three or more hours from their work each week is worth the price. It takes time for them to trust that spending time in God's Word and praying and encouraging each other is worth the economic loss. Sonia was one that would not allow herself to be convinced and so we prayed often, that through this tragedy, that God would open up Sonia's heart and show her that spending time at the QFRC would be worth her sacrifice.

Then, one morning in early February there she was! After our initial embrace, I asked her "So, Sonia, is God faithful?" to which Sonia smiled and replied "Yes, He is". Every week, since, Sonia comes to the QFRC. **Little by little, not only is she beginning to build relationships with the other women of the Zambiza dump but with her Savior and Provider, Jesus Christ! Please Praise God for His faithfulness in reaching through the pain of Sonia's heart.**



A God Who Can Grow \$50,000 and A Dream !

I first met Boris, the director of Dunamis, almost one year ago. After a long talk with Boris, I was introduced to the girls of the ministry who had been rescued from human trafficking. The girls are rescued by the police and housed in a government shelter and then brought to the Dunamis facility 3 to 4 days per week to receive work skills training, educational skills, and spiritual support. **After meeting a 10-year old girl rescued from prostitution, I came home numb, cried off and on for two weeks and shared my heart with Darrell saying "Honey, we have to do SOMETHING!"** I prayed for six weeks, asking God what He would have us do. When the answer came, I began by making a commitment to pray diligently for the ministry of Dunamis, Boris and Fernanda, the Dunamis staff, and each one of the girls, their families, and their perpetrators.

Boris also shared with us that it was his and Fernanda's dream to fulfill the vision God had given them to buy land, build a larger and better facility, and a permanent residence in which to house and minister to the girls. In a few month's time, churches and individuals from across the ocean faithfully gave their gifts totaling \$50,000. This was only the beginning because with this amount of money, they could begin looking for land. But more money would needed to build the new facility and housing unit.

Sometimes when things seem impossible, humans doubt. Some people believed that Boris and Fernanda should wait until all the money was raised for the new facility before purchasing the land. But despite this, they moved forward in faith and began looking. You see, Dunamis presently has the ability to minister to an average of 10-15 girls every 3 months, but there are many more waiting for the opportunity of a safe place to heal. Presently there is one government shelter and a few other private shelters which provide medical care, psychological counseling and physical safety for the girls. But no one is providing them with opportunities for spiritual healing and the level of loving care that they receive at Dunamis. Boris, Fernanda, Sondra, and Darrell know that without this new facility and residence, the chances of total healing for the "other girls" is slim to none. **This is why we are now committed to helping in whatever way we can to help this dream of building "The Forever Home" to come true.**

After many months of unsuccessfully searching for "the right piece of property", an unexpected opportunity arose and a beautiful three-acre piece of land became available. Boris went to see the

land and immediately knew “this was from God!”. It is outside of the city, slightly remote and therefore more safe, is mineral-rich land on which crops can be grown, and the view is breathtaking - - a true place of peace; a true place of healing.



In addition, it had a small home in which Boris and his family could live and could stop paying rent on their missionary salary. When Boris inquired about the price he was told it was \$160,000. Stunned, he told the owner he would go for a prayer walk and return. At the end of his walk, he offered the owner \$100,000 (now remember, Boris has only \$50,000!) The woman counter-offered with \$100,000 to be paid in 30 days and \$30,000 for the house to be paid in 90 days. Following another prayer-walk, Boris agreed. After shaking hands and walking away, Boris said “Okay, Lord, you’ve told me this is the property to buy, now, You need to provide the money!” Three hours later, Boris’s cellphone rings. It’s a friend from the U.S. asking “WHAT is going on in the ministry?” When Boris asked “Why?” The friend replied, “Because God’s been telling me all week to give you \$50,000! The land is now paid in full and belongs to the Dunamis ministry. Now, can the same God who raised \$50,000 in less than a week, raise \$30,000 more for the house? Within less than 60 (not 90) days, the money was raised! **Hudson Taylor, missionary to China, once said, “God’s work done in God’s way, never lacks God’s supply.” I need not say more.**

A God of Details

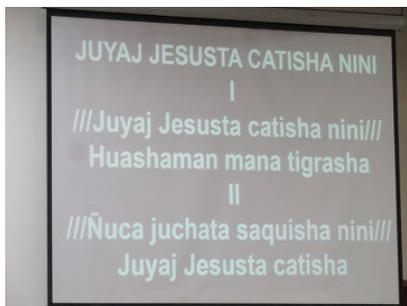
Taking on this Dunamis project is not easy for anyone who is involved. The list of things to do is endless. There is money to raise, long planning sessions, blueprints, architects, government paperwork, etc. all of which take a lot of time and energy from the Dunamis staff. Before the new facility can be built, the small existing house for Boris and his family needs to be renovated and a cistern needs to be installed before they can move in. The land has to be inspected to build a foundation on which to move the workshop from the old property to the new. Teams need to come and help disassemble the workshop building and re-assemble it on the new land. A water well has to be dug and more than \$100,000 more needs to be raised for the new facility. **The details are humanly overwhelming - but not to God! We, Boris, his family, his staff, and many others are covering this project in faith and prayer and we are excited to see what God is going to do!**

A God Who Knows, Cares and Prepares

More than 10 years ago, we were apart from each other for a month while I traveled from Wisconsin to Texas visiting extended family along the way. Some couples deal with separation better than others. We are quite independent people but we weren’t sure how we would deal with now being apart for five weeks. At the time, we didn’t know that my trip to Wisconsin would be extended to seven weeks but God did! So, in preparation for this long span of time away from each other, **the Lord provided us with several**

opportunities this month to spend some quality time with each other and those we care about. We were thrilled to be able to learn more about Ecuador, its culture, and its people, and to create some great memories until we would be together again - - -

- Indigenous Wedding Anniversary -



A mariachi band, community cup (shared beverage in the same cup with all the guests), three pickup trucks full of gifts of food for the couple, and communal singing of 'I Have Decided to Follow Jesus' in the Quichua language ! We, among the 250+ indigenous Indian guests, were two among a few 'gringos' who were invited to help celebrate their 25th anniversary. Luis, an obviously happily married man, is the producer of the Quichua radio programming at HCJB radio-Ecuador.

- "Carnaval" and the Fruit and Flower Festival -



A day in Ambato, Ecuador watching a huge parade with floats of fresh fruit, flowers, and beautiful sen~oritas, enjoying live performances of folk dancing, and being sprayed with cans of foam were the activities of the day!



- Day Trip to Otavalo -

Invitation from veteran missionary couple for a day trip to an indigenous community to shop, visit a volcanic lake, and eat lunch at an outdoor plaza!



- Reunion with Our "Ecuadorian Son" -

Cristian is one of three children we've sponsored from a local orphanage. We exchanged letters back and forth between the U.S. and Ecuador for a number of years, with Cristian patiently waiting for his "N. American mom and dad" to finally move to Ecuador. But just one month before our arrival in August of 2014, Cristian left the orphanage at age 15 and we lost our connection with him! We were devastated! Then, this February, Cristian and his sister moved into a small apartment of the relative of our friend, Monica. Monica surprised us with a visit to her house and invited Cristian to be re-united with us! Our "Ecuadorian son" who will soon be 18, is working with computers, and still dreams of being a military pilot for Ecuador! We asked Cristian if he thought we were never coming back, to which he shyly and sadly replied "yes". We assured him that we are here to stay until God calls us away and we will never stop being his "spiritual mom and dad". (Cristian does not know his father, and his mother committed suicide when he was very young.) We are making plans for Cristian to come to Quito and to stay with us on his days off from work very soon!



Please praise God with us for this wonderful reunion!

**We hope you'll continue to follow along with Parts 3, 4, and 5
as we prepare to share with you what God has been doing
in the months of March, April, and May!**

Darrell and Sondra Holden

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