



Holden Newsletter – August (Part 2)

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

Main Topics

Main Points

Prayer Requests/Praises

Dear Friend, Encourager, Partner-in-Mission,

My aunt would say - - - "Go ahead and make your plans for the Lord wants you to plan, but don't be surprised when He hears your plans, laughs, and then says, *Okay, now here are MY plans!*"

We had planned to write our first newsletter to you one month after our arrival here in Ecuador but just one day after our arrival we experienced our first earthquake so we felt the need to write you immediately. Also our plan was to write to you once a month. And now, here it is, October 19, and we are spending the day searching through journals and our calendar trying to remember all of the significant things that have happened in the last 2 months. Language school has kept us busier than we could ever expect. So we are thanking God that we are now able to have a day to spend time sharing with you what the Lord has done. This is the first of 3 newsletters that are coming your way. One for August, one for September, and one for October.

AUGUST 11-22

We were quickly introduced to the "earthquakes of Ecuador" experiencing the first on August 12 and the second on August 16, along with 13 aftershocks during this first week and a half. The Lord gave us an unexplainable sense of peace as we helped "our family" stay calm and to be prepared for future incidences. Darrell was asked to share his knowledge of disaster preparation with the local church as well as with our language school staff and students.

We spent over 10 days unpacking, shopping for personal needs and school supplies, and organizing our living space. Our "Ecuadorian family" is comprised of 4 adults, and 4 children. They are an amazing, lovable, generous family and we are very blessed to be here with them. The location of our home couldn't be any more perfect. We are 5 minutes on foot from the major supermarket and hardware store, bus lines and taxis, 10 minutes from the city park and our church, and 20 minutes from our school.

We attended orientations at both HCJB/RB (ReachBeyond) and NILI (the Nazarene International Language Institute) gaining much encouragement, support, training, and useful information, including a book on cultural adaption "From Foreign to Familiar" and other useful instruction on things such as "how to avoid express kidnappings, staying safe during political riots, etc."

We spent the good part of one day in "The Office of Foreigners" waiting to register our VISAS. We obtained our VISAS in Chicago but are required to register them with the government of Ecuador. We were assisted with this process by the staff of our language school and with their help only had to wait for about 3 hours to obtain the proper stamps. It could have been a much more complicated process as the Ecuador Consulate in Chicago put our old passport numbers on our VISAS instead of our new ones! The staff in Ecuador permitted us to register them with the incorrect numbers!

We attended a "pizza night" at HCJB/RB where we were introduced to staff and other missionaries. Jody and Scott Arnold, from Oregon, who we met while at our training in Colorado Springs in 2012, are also now in Ecuador. It is so good to see them in person again. Jody and Sondra will be job-sharing the position of "Office Support" in the missionary personnel office. Scott works in accounting and Darrell will be working in

Emergency Management.

We attended our first church service at the Nazarene Church. Our former church physically moved from the north side of Quito to central Quito 1 hour away, so we are attending the church of our Ecuadorian family with whom we live. Pastor Salomon, who is Ecuadorian, is not only the pastor of the church, but the director of the Nazarene Theological Seminary of South America where NILI (our school) is located. **Pastor Salomon, speaks so clearly and distinctly that we are able to understand up to 90% of what he is teaching in his sermons.**

We have shared with you in the past about the Ecuadorian family that we met, who live in Madison Wisconsin, own a shop in the East and West Town Malls and sell their artisan goods, each year, at the Stevens Point Cultural Festival. Fabian, Lupe and their three daughters, Cayana, Sarayana, and Nina had asked us to bring their daughter, Nina (10) with us to Ecuador to visit her grandparents. Although they were not able to make arrangements to have her come here until later than our arrival, we were able to visit her at her grandparents house. In 2011, we had met her father's family who live in Otavalo. This time we met her mother's family, who live in Quito. Nina's mother, Lupe, had told us in 2013 that there is a possibility that her father would be willing to rent an apartment in his home to us when we are finished with language school. We did not yet view the apartment because it is more important first, to visit and build upon the relationship. We will be making other visits to their home in the future and hope to view the apartment at a later time. We discovered that Lupe's father, Julio-Cesar is a famous exporter of artisan goods. Nina's parents and both sets of grandparents are Otavalanos, the indigenous (native) people who speak both Spanish and Quichua. **We are learning much about their culture through knowing them.**

AUGUST 23-31

I, Sondra contracted an Amoeba, from where we do not know. I lost 10 lbs in 5 days and missed a week of school but was able to keep up with my homework from bed. Our family introduced us to a Natural Physician here in Quito who is such a blessing to us. He correctly diagnosed the problem and prescribed homeopathic as well as orthodox medicines and got me back on my feet in a few days. **I have fully recovered and feel even better than I did before I was sick. We praise God for this** because the Dr. informed us that if the Amoeba goes untreated, it can go to your brain and kill you. I am glad that the Dr. and Darrell did not share this with me until I was feeling much better! **We now have a "family doctor" who we have much confidence in. We are also blessed by the inexpensive health care here (about 20% of what it would cost in the U.S.)**

Our Ecuadorian family is very active in the Nazarene church. Stephanie (23) sings on the worship team, Alyson (15) and Nicolaus (10) dance on the worship team, and Jennifer (21) teaches dance and dances as well. Carmen (Grandma) used to be the accountant. Now, she offers her home for Church Youth Events, so **one Friday evening we had around 25 youth overnight in our house.** They played hilarious games which resulted in the house being filled with laughter. The youth leader has an amazing sense of humor which entertained the youth all evening long. The evening ended with devotions, worship, movies and popcorn and sleeping bags strewn throughout the house. They were well-behaved and only kept us awake until 2am; other years they stayed up all night!

We attended a special luncheon at the Nazarene Church where over 200 people were served homemade soup, rice, salad, pork, and dessert. The cost was only \$2 and **the money collected is being used to help with completing the renovations to the 2nd story of the church** where they have a kitchen, cafeteria, and various rooms for church-related activities.

We had our first quiz at language school and did well despite being "rusty" with the language. Our professor, Adreana, speaks clearly, explains instructions well, teaches us a lot about the culture, and has endless patience for our inability to understand. She does not even know English, so from day one, even our instructions have been in Spanish. **NILI is an amazing school in that it helps support the seminary.** The on-campus language school students are paired up as roommates with Latin American seminary students. NILI is non-profit, so the tuition paid by university students is used to help with scholarships for the seminary students. Darrell, I, and the majority of students in our class of 8, are not university students, but "professional" students because we are missionaries. **This is the first class that NILI has taught where all the students are missionaries.** Our ages range from 21 to 65 and our discussions tend to be interesting as we come from different backgrounds, etc., so we are learning a lot from each other and not just from the professor. We have

weekly devotions and are sharing our testimonies. **By the end of the semester we will write our own devotion in Spanish and share it with the class.**

Praises:

For Sondra's complete recovery.
For our wonderful Ecuadorian family and our more than adequate living arrangement with them.
For the registration of our VISAs despite incorrect passport numbers.
For the wonderful support and encouragement from the HCJB/RB staff and the NILI staff.
For Pastor Salomon and his messages in the Nazarene Church.
For our wonderful professor, Adreana.

Prayer Requests:

For an opportunity to visit again with Nina's grandparents and to view the apartment they have.
For no "future problems" with our incorrect passport numbers.
For the opportunity to build relationships with the people of the Nazarene church and our neighborhood.



Darrell and Sondra Holden

Serving with Ripe For Harvest, Partnering with Reach Beyond



in Ecuador, South America



Send Your Gifts To:

*Ripe For Harvest
Acct 319
PO Box 487*

To Contact Us:

*Darrell and Sondra Holden
c/o Tina Bush
1250 Peach St.*

Our Website:

www.ReachBeyondTheMountains.com

Monument CO 80132-0487

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494