

**Dear Friend, Encourager, Partner-in-Mission,**

### CONCERT NIGHT AT HCJB RADIO-ECUADOR

Excited to hear that HCJB Radio-Ecuador was putting on a large Christian concert for the community, we called our indigenous Indian friends, Patricio, Rosita, and their two teenage children inviting them to attend the concert with us. Paying \$20 for their four tickets, which they could not afford, we were hopeful that they would attend. We wanted the family to hear the Gospel through Spanish music. Rosita is a devout Catholic who reads her Bible regularly, but Patricio is still “sitting on the fence” about this whole “Jesus-Church-Bible” thing. As we suspected, Patricio made an excuse as to why he could not come and sent his male cousin, who was visiting from Columbia, in his place. Though we were disappointed about Patricio’s decision, his cousin enjoyed the concert immensely! He said that he was going to go home and tell Patricio all about it!

Rosita and Patricio’s two teen-age children Estefan and Leisha, at first, did not seem engaged in the music, but we later noticed their son, Estefan, listening intently to one particular song and watching a video about how and why Jesus died on the cross. We talked with Estefan about “the message” and his hardened heart against God began to open. Please pray for Patricio, his cousin, and kids , that they will come to know, love, and serve Jesus, accepting Him as their Savior and Lord!



### OUR SECOND VISIT TO THE JUNGLE AREA



In October, when Darrell taught “emergency preparedness” to the staff at the Nate Saint Memorial School, our boss asked Darrell to return to Shell this November to teach the missionary staff of Reach Beyond. This time, we rode with the regional director and made the trip in 5-1/2 hours by car instead of 9-1/2 hours by bus! The first day, the class was held under a metal roof outdoors. With all the jungle noises surrounding us, Darrell spoke to the missionary families above the sounds of the birds, animals, and insects. Afterward, we shared a delicious pot-luck meal prepared by the Shell missionaries. The second

day, we had a special meeting with the Reach Beyond staff, in an indoor conference room. Questions were answered resulting from the class the night before and planning took place for the next teaching session in February. We also listened to Reach Beyond's vision for a future missionary training center in Shell. **We praise God that the Shell staff are developing a training program and that they are actively engaged in learning about Emergency Preparedness!**

### **THE GUEST/MINISTRY ROOM**

After several days of cutting and patching holes in the cement ceiling to repair electrical problems, painting walls and a huge closet, treating the laminate floor, buying rugs, and making curtains from tapestries hand-woven by the indigenous Indians, **the guest/ministry room is now complete! We now have a beautiful, bright room to use for visitors and for possible future ministry!** The efficiency "kitchen" located across the hall is now an indoor laundry-room with a guest bathroom and shower. We asked the landlady to remove the refrigerator so we could put our washer in there allowing us to wash clothes indoors instead of on the roof, and to dry them indoors when it rains (as soon as we install a retractable clothesline). **Please be praying with us that our landlady will allow us to occasionally use these rooms for ministry. Our prayer is that when the opportunity arises, we may be able provide short-term transitional housing for young girls (presently living in a government shelter) as they adapt back into society. Our desire is to provide them with safe, temporary housing in a Christian family environment.**

### **THREE WOMEN FROM WISCONSIN**

In late November, three wonderful women: Tina Bush, Pat Ladecki, and Elaine Smith, pulled together their time and resources and helped us send out approximately 120 "year-end" newsletters by mail. This project from start to finish takes all of us about 4-5 days to complete. Without the ladies, we would not be able to reach, by mail, those who are financially coming along side us in this journey! **Praise God, we are pleased to report that already by the third week of December, we received \$2,085.00 of the \$2,325.00 needed to cover our recent unexpected expenses! You can still mail in a gift to Ripe For Harvest, Acct #20319, P.O. Box 487, Monument, CO 80132-0487 or go to [www.ReachBeyondTheMountains.com](http://www.ReachBeyondTheMountains.com), then click on "Partner Now" and give via credit card.** If your gift is received by Ripe For Harvest by December 31 you can still receive a tax deduction for 2015. If the 2015 deduction is not important to you, you can still send it in and receive the deduction for 2016. Any additional money received will be kept in the mission account for future ministry-related expenses.

### **MAN OF MANY HATS**

As many of you know, in addition to Darrell serving as the Crisis Management Coordinator and as a maintenance person for Reach Beyond, he also volunteers his time teaching courses in the community, doing maintenance for the local church, our Ecuadorian family, and our landlady, **and serves as a volunteer on the Quito Fire Dept from time to time. These past three months, the F.D. volunteer work had to be put "on-hold" as Darrell completes the remainder of 92 hours of on-line classes for renewing his Paramedic license.** Because maintaining his license allows Darrell to volunteer with the Quito fire departments and may allow him to participate in Reach Beyond's medical caravan ministry, **the mission staff have encouraged Darrell to do his on-line classes during his office hours with the mission! Praise the Lord, he only has one more two-hour class to complete and then he is finished for the next two years!**

### **THE QUITO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (QFRC)**

Through the QFRC ministry of Extreme Response International, **Sondra helps to serve families who struggle to make a living gathering "recyclables" from the Zambiza dump-transfer station, on the east-**

side of Quito. Every Thursday, **she helps minister to 50 women who come to the QFRC** who receive Bible-teaching, encouragement, prayer, fellowship, exercise and nutrition classes, and skills training to make additional income. (After a 10 to 12-hour day of scavenging through the garbage, a recycler earns of an average of \$8 per day!)

**Sondra also is building relationships with the children of the recyclers. Starting in January, she will be teaching English to five of the 40 children who attend the before/after school program at the QFRC.**

## THE DAY SONDRA MET SONIA

**In late October, the Extreme Women Ministry from Michigan, came to minister to the women of the Zambiza dump.** Approximately 7 women cooked and served 50 ladies a hot breakfast, provided crafts, packages of clean non-recycled underwear and feminine hygiene products. These women often eat only one-two small meals per day, use clothing and underwear that they find in the dump, and often cope with their monthly menstrual cycles without proper hygiene products. These “everyday items” that we women take for granted were a priceless treasure for these women who displayed ear-to-ear smiles upon seeing the gifts they were given in the love of Jesus Christ.

**While the women were receiving their gifts from the ladies from Michigan, I had noticed one woman sitting by herself. I honestly thought she was a volunteer who happened to be Ecuadorian. I decided to sit next to her and strike up a conversation with her (yes, in Spanish).** Sonia and I talked for almost 45 minutes chatting and comparing busy schedules, feeling tired, and still having to do daily household chores. When I mentioned that I only had some Sundays to rest, she mentioned that this is the day that she does her laundry (Ecuadorian's typically do all their laundry by-hand on a cement scrub-board, which takes hours, and hang their clothes in the sun to dry). She told me she worked ten hours per day, six days per week, and that she had two children. Suddenly I felt foolish for thinking I had a busy schedule!

When the women had received all their gifts, said their good-byes and left, Sonia stayed behind. **The mission leader of Extreme Response then announced that the group and I would be visiting a family whose house was recently destroyed by a landslide. As we got up to leave, I told Sonia good-bye but she explained that she was coming with us.** Still thinking she was a volunteer, we no sooner slipped into the van and Sonia began to cry. Once inside the van, she privately released her sadness and shame. **SHE was the women whose destroyed house we were going to visit!** Another woman and I held her hands, and let her sink her face into our shoulders as she wept.



**Upon arrival at her squatter home, we could not believe our eyes! The landslide had knocked out two of the four walls of Sonia's one-room cement-block home. The metal roof was now being supported by temporary wooden poles.** Most of her family's possessions were destroyed and the remainder worth saving was now crammed into another one-room house, next door, that belonged to their parents. Not owning the land, on which they had built their little home, means that Extreme Response can not build them a new home, at least not until the family (or the mission) is able, if ever, to secure a piece of land for them. As we stepped inside the remains of her home, Sonia recalled the day the landslide rumbled through their house and how **she and her husband dug out their five-year old daughter, who had been trapped under the rubble for 15 minutes. All praise be to God her daughter is physically okay but she still has nightmares about that day!**





After surveying the remains of her home, we entered the one-room over-crowded house of their parents, made a circle around all the family members, laid our hands on them and prayed. **As a group we provided them with two very large boxes of food and gave Sonia the leftover packages of underwear and sanitary products.**

**Sonia's husband gave up trying to keep up his masculine image and broke down in tears.** In this culture people experience much shame when they are not able to provide properly for their family. Being that both he and Sonia each work 60 hours a week in the dump and still struggle to feed their family, **this was more than he could bear. I spent significant time, listening to, hugging, and praying for Sonia and her husband, and assuring them that God is still good even when it feels like He has abandoned them.**

Sonia typically does not attend the QFRC each week because she feels she can not take the three hours off from her job. **Although Sonia's children continue to come to the before/after school program, we are praying that Sonia and her husband will come to the QFRC weekly to receive the services offered and to fellowship with other families who are struggling. We pray that they will trust God to provide for their family for the three work hours that they would miss.**

Because of the extreme situation of six people and two households of possessions trying to live in the one-room house of their parents, **Sonia and her husband have now moved into a small apartment nearby despite the fact that they can not afford it. Because they are now paying rent they have little to no money for food.** If Extreme Response can help them secure land in the future and build them a home, this situation will greatly change their circumstances.

**Until then, we are doing what we can to help the family.** - - - We bought 5 hand-made crosses to hang on our Christmas tree that Sonia sells for additional income, we bought \$75 worth of basic food staples and personal products, and will donate another \$75 for the QFRC to supply the family with a 3 1/2-month supply of fresh fruit and vegetables. Then for Christmas, we will give the family a book of The Gospel of John, in Spanish, for the adults, a children's prayer book for their two children, and a fleece blanket for their bed.

**If you would like to support us in helping Sonia and her family, you can give a gift to our special project account at:**

**Ripe For Harvest  
(Psalm 68:10 Project - Acct# 20099)  
P.O. Box 487**

**Monument, CO 80132-0487**

or go to our website at [www.ReachBeyondTheMountains.com](http://www.ReachBeyondTheMountains.com)  
then click on "Partner Now" and give via credit card.

**We will be working with the staff of QFRC of Extreme Response in regard to the family's immediate needs.**

**We hope you'll join us in prayer  
and in helping to show the love of Jesus Christ  
to this family who is living in this extreme situation!**

Click on this link- - - > <https://youtu.be/Dr4XvMLf0Mo>  
to watch 5-minute video about Extreme Response International's ministry  
to the families of the Zambiza dump in Quito, Ecuador

**Psalm 68:10 ... “and from your bounty, O God, you provided for the poor.”**



**Darrell and Sondra Holden**

**Serving with Ripe For Harvest - Partnering with Reach Beyond**



**in Ecuador, South America**



**Send Your Financial Gifts to:**

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**Send Letters/Cards/Gifts Locally to:**

Darrell and Sondra Holden  
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**Letter/Cards/Gifts Under 3lbs Can Be Sent Directly To:**

HCJB Global (Darrell or Sondra Holden)  
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