

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,

MOVING FORWARD - FULL SPEED AHEAD !

God continues to move forward with His plan for the Dunamis ministry at a speed that is hard to keep up with! Boris and Fernanda's house on the new Dunamis property is already under renovation and they plan to move their family in by August! The foundation has been poured onto which the Woodlands Team will re-construct the workshop building! Boris is planning a trip to Canada to meet with churches to raise support for the construction of the new home for the girls, a security wall around the property, and a van in which to transport the girls to the new site! They plan to break ground for the new home for the girls this fall! Boris, his staff, the Galuk family in Wisconsin, and Darrell and I are communicating on a regular basis discussing plans for the team's arrival from Woodlands Church from Wisconsin. So much needs to be done - from making arrangements for housing, meals and transportation, planning cultural activities, making plans for donated items for those we are serving, to finding resources for all the tools and equipment needed to do the job! **The details are overwhelming and we realize that none of this is humanly possible in the time frame that we have. We are completely dependent upon your prayers and God's answer to those prayers! Thank you for coming alongside us as we move forward in obedience, to what God wants for the girls rescued from human-trafficking and their future with the Dunamis ministry!**



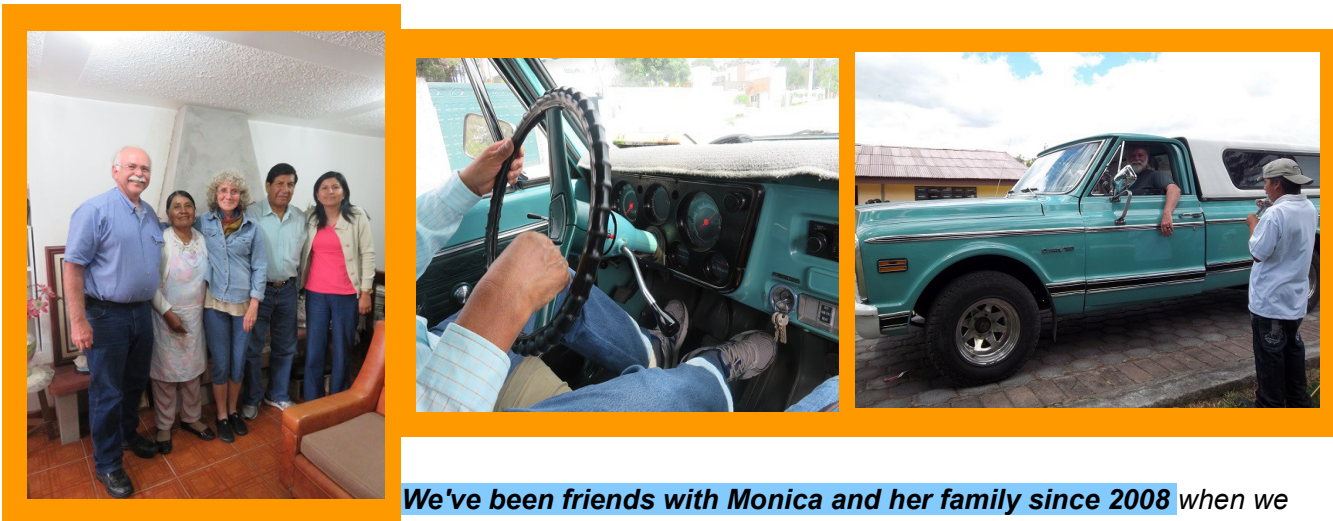
THE ENEMY - ALSO ON THE MOVE !

Often, when God is on the move and invites us to participate, and we do, the enemy is not at all happy! Whenever God is doing something big, the enemy is threatened and kicks and screams like a child in a tantrum! As we've shared with you, the Dunamis staff, our local church, and Darrell and I have felt the stinging arrows of the enemy ever since we committed to move forward in the Dunamis ministry. Both the physical and spiritual enemies of these girls and this ministry do NOT want the girls physically rescued, much less spiritually rescued! **The latest and craziest attack we've experienced was Darrell breaking out with shingles! on his head!** Never in his life has he had shingles! His immune system is one of the strongest our family Dr. has ever seen. So for him to contract this, especially on his head, was such an obvious sign to us that it was Satan, and that he had not yet given up in trying to dissuade us from our focus. **But Praise the Lord, Darrell's recovery was rapid which amazed the doctors who treated him!**

DIRTY HANDS AND A CREATIVE RELEASE

At the Reach Beyond and HCJB Radio facilities I, Sondra, not only serve as a gardener but also am asked to help with some interior design projects. A recent project was painting an accent wall and arranging some newly framed art and photo pieces on the walls in the visitor area of the HCJB Radio building. Caring for over 150 indoor plants, weeding and watering outside gardens, and helping out with special projects, is fulfilling my yearning to “get my hands in the dirt and to be creative” on a weekly basis! **I thank God that He has provided me with the opportunity to serve in this way!**

OLD FRIENDS AND AN OLD FORD



We've been friends with Monica and her family since 2008 when we lived and served for a month at the orphanage in Conocoto, Ecuador. Monica was an English teacher in the school at the orphanage and her parents, Rosa and Raphael served as construction supervisors and general laborers there for over 40 years. **Rosa and Raphael are now retired, giving Raphael more time to do things around home. His recent project was getting the family vehicle in better running condition. Typically this would not be a big undertaking except that the family vehicle is a 1969 Ford Custom pickup truck!**

Now, we know that you men reading this are sighing with dreams of owning one of these beauties. But what you need to understand is that Raphael (and most Ecuadorians) have no concept that this would be a valuable collector item in the U.S. To him, it's just an old family truck (an old family truck in near mint condition)! We've explained to him that if we could take his truck to the U.S. and sell it for him, he and his family would have enough money on which to live for the rest of his years! **But Raphael just shakes his head at us and says, "What would anyone want with a 47 year-old truck?"**

Recently, Raphael asked Monica to find the mechanical parts he needed on the internet because he does not know English. But Monica, who knows English, is unfamiliar with terminology for vehicle parts. So **Darrell, with his English, Spanish, and automobile knowledge helped them find the truck parts needed and agreed that we would help place the order and then transport the parts to Ecuador when Sondra returned from her spring visit to the U.S.** Then on Father's Day weekend, Monica's family invited us (and the car parts) to their home for the weekend. **Raphael was the happiest father in town now that he could begin "tinkering" on the family truck. And Darrell was the next happiest because we were able to be with our Ecuadorian son, Cristian, and his sister Nataly, who stopped by to visit!** **We thank God for the families here who love us and the people He's given us to love!**

SHARING COMMON GROUND

My (Sondra's) father was a vehicle mechanic during his early years and because he never had a son, he took upon himself to teach me how to diagnose vehicle problems, check oil levels and tire pressure, and to change a flat tire. But because of Darrell's mechanical knowledge, my need to use these skills quickly faded into the background. But, **one of my own areas of knowledge and experience is with determining and treating health problems using natural medicine.** For more than 25 years, both Darrell and I have used this form of healthcare and I have become skilled in the use of natural remedies. **Here in Ecuador, many of people's preference for healthcare is to use natural medicines or to see a professional who offers this type of care, so we feel "right at home" when health concerns arise.**

After my return to Ecuador in April, from my 7-week stay in the U.S., I had experienced extreme fatigue, light-headedness, low-blood pressure and heart arrhythmia. Some severe episodes took me to the emergency room and then to see a heart doctor. After much research, the suspicion was that the high altitude may be affecting my thyroid which controls the body's energy, breathing, blood pressure, heart rhythms and other functions. We began treating the condition with natural supplements for the thyroid, heart, and adrenals. In a very short amount of time, we saw a significant improvement which seemed to impress everyone around us including the heart specialist. Then, **one of the Ecuadorian employees of Reach Beyond, approached me and asked if I would meet with her sister and talk with her because she has very similar symptoms and cannot seem to find relief from any of the doctors. Just a few days later, I met with her sister and her aunt, sharing my experience and knowledge hoping to give her some hope.** At the end of our meeting, they agreed that she will ask her doctor to schedule a thyroid test and then we will send her medical records and the lab results to our natural physician in the U.S. We then prayed together thanking God as our Great Physician who created us and knows everything about every cell in our bodies. **Please pray for this young woman, who is having great difficulty caring for her young children because of her severe symptoms.**

TOUGH TRAINING

Tough training is often needed in preparation to do a job well. That is not only a common philosophy but a requirement to work with the girls in the Dunamis ministry. Because my involvement with this ministry is growing and some of my time will be spent working around or directly with the girls, it was suggested that I complete the 3-day basic training program. Because of my degree in Psychology, education in Sociology and Human Services, my volunteer experience working with families in crisis, and my own life experiences, I anticipated that the training would be difficult, both intellectually and emotionally. **I thought I knew what to expect. - I was wrong.** Human-trafficking is something few people are willing to discuss because of the intensity of the topic, and I was truly not prepared for what I needed to learn in those 3 days. Even though I know that God is in the center of every heartbreaking and emotionally and mentally fatiguing detail, **the pain is still very real.** After completing three 4-hour days of training, I was very much in need of spending some intense time with the Lord.

Evil (sin) is ugly; that is a fact. Whether it is ours or someone else's, we tend to avoid talking about it and most certainly have no desire to look at its ugly face. But it is because of the beautiful young faces of these innocent girls that I and others choose to look directly at the ugliness of the evil in their lives. It is because these girls need to be understood, that I and others try to understand their pain. And in order to understand their pain, we must intellectually and emotionally enter into it. **The reality is, any one of these girls could easily be your own daughter, sister, or friend!** Each of these girls did not choose to become involved in sexual slavery. They were coerced, lied to, and in some cases sold or kidnapped. **Actually, I could have been one of these girls.** I grew up in an environment conducive to sexual abuse, living in a tavern and being around drunk adult men. I had my own experiences with older males and a

male cousin attempting to sexually abuse me. I and other young girls and women have dealt with such uncomfortable situations and most of us have never talked about it because of fear and shame. I am one of the fortunate ones blessed by God who were given opportunities in my life to work through these issues. But many are not. Many are enslaved by this evil day after day whether still caught in the web of sexual abuse or entrapped in the visual memories of events passed by. Many will never be found nor rescued. But some, by the grace of God, will. **God has called Boris and Fernanda to aid these girls when they are rescued and to teach them of a loving Father God and His Son Jesus and His Holy Spirit, who love them deeply and who can renew their lives.**

Please pray not only for the girls, but for me and other missionaries and volunteers as we enter into and process the reality of sin and evil in these young girls lives. Pray also that others will enter into it through education, discussions, active service, funding the ministries who serve them, and through commitment to prayer!

PREVENTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REJUVENATION

Although Darrell and I have only been on the missionary field for two years, when Reach Beyond offered a 2-day Seminar on "Missionary Burnout" we jumped at the opportunity! We both believe in prevention and maintenance and saw this as an opportunity to "avoid it" rather than "recover from it". Our mission agency offers many resources to help its missionaries prevent, deal with, and recover from life's challenges unique to those working in ministry, missions, and particularly those serving overseas. In addition, they have missionary-care staff and an on-staff clinical psychologist available as needed at no cost to the missionary who uses their services.

Darrell and I realize that we need "regular" times of rest and rejuvenation. By "regular" we mean daily, weekly, monthly, and annually. Daily, we have our quiet times carried out in our own unique ways that fit our personality and our individual relationship with the Lord. Weekly, we set time aside each Sunday to put technology aside, to pray together, and spend time in creation enjoying each other as husband and wife. Monthly, we plan a social event to share together. And annually, we make a point to participate in a retreat. In the earlier years of our marriage, we always vacationed in northern Wisconsin around the time of our anniversary. But in the past 10 years, we've only done this once. Life circumstances and lack of finances have gotten in the way of what was really important - attending to our relationship with each other. So because we will celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary (September 20) **we are making plans to spend 10 days together in October, rejuvenating ourselves, our marriage, and our relationship with God. Please pray as we search out affordable options of where and how to spend our time together!**



**THANK YOU FOR PRAYERS,
YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT,
AND YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!**



Darrell and Sondra Holden

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



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