



HOLDEN NEWS JAN/FEB/MAR 2019 (Part 1)

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

* Main Topics * Main Points
* Prayer Requests/Praises



DEAR PARTNER, ENCOURAGER, FRIEND,

Recently, my Windows 7 program died very suddenly. Praise God for Luis, the 'tech' guy at Reach Beyond who installed a new program on my computer. **The changes you see are a result of some of the things I've been learning to use with Windows 10. The photo in the above right corner is of the Cayambe volcano which we can see from our new apartment.** It is a rare occasion for Cayambe to not be covered with clouds yet we were able to view it 4 times in the first month after moving into our new home. The day this photo was taken the sun was shining on its snow-covered slope.

JANUARY - DAY TRIP TO OLDE TOWNE QUITO

Although we've been here 4 ½ years now, there's always more to learn about the culture.

In early January, after all the busyness of the holiday season, one Saturday, we took a day trip to visit the Ethno-Cultural Museum and the San Francisco Church in Olde Town Quito.



Painting of Man
from Cofa'n Tribe



Tribal Head-Dress
of Bird Feathers



Tribal Mask
and Clothing



Tribal Head-Dress of
Needles and Beetles



San Francisco Church
Steeple Inside and Out



Women's Dress from
Waorani Tribe



Spears Used to Kill Animals for Food
or Human Enemies



Incan Pottery Rescued
from Recent Earthquake



Shaman (left)
Indigenous Lady (right)

It was a great get-away within the city of Quito and a time for us to relax a bit before starting our next mission project with the team that would come from Wisconsin later in January. We were blessed with a wonderful day of exploring, learning, and great weather. Then at the close of the day we found a quaint little restaurant with a touch of Old Spanish décor and enjoyed some live, romantic, piano music while feasting on the best lasagna we've ever eaten!



JANUARY - GUESTS FROM ASIA

In mid-January, the President of Ripe for Harvest, Steve, and his wife, Brenda, came to visit us for a day. They are missionaries in an undisclosed country and were traveling around Central and S. America to visit some of the RFH missionaries. They attended the service at our church on Sunday morning and shared lunch and conversation with us for the remainder of the day. **Please pray for Steve as takes on the role of President of RFH after Dr. Tim Smith's retirement from that position.**

JANUARY - TEAM FROM WISCONSIN

A team from Community Church, Stevens Point, Wisconsin came to Ecuador to serve the Chango-Taípe family (Carmen, Verito, and their 6 children/grandchildren) taking on a huge repair/remodel project. The repairs and updates to the home were crucial, according to Pete Emery, construction project manager of Extreme Response. The issues within the home were affecting the physical health and the emotional and spiritual well-being of this Christian family who gives so much to the local church and to others. He commented that without some of these repairs, he feared that any further disintegration of the house could lead to a collapse of the structure of the home within the next few years. The team consisted of 10 folks from Wisconsin, including 2 couples, 3 deacons, 2 young men and the pastor plus Darrell, myself, Pete, Ricardo (his assistant), and at times an Ecuadorian friend or two. **In just 6 days, the team helped to transform not only the home but also the lives of this family. We praise God for these folks and the hard work they put not only into the physical project but the time they invested in their relationships with the Ecuadorians.**



Team's Arrival at Quito Airport



Sondra with Tianna, Our 'Advocate'



Team Meeting at Nazarene Seminary



Darrell Supervising the Work



Young and Old Working Together



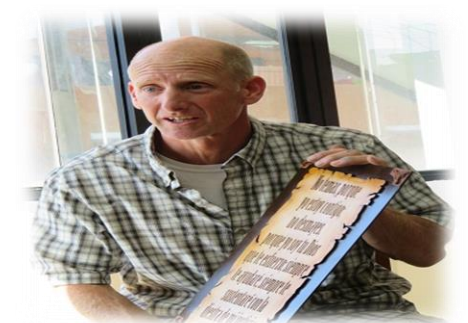
Deacon and Pastor Getting Dirty



Daily Lunch on the Sidewalk



Ricardo and Pastor Chris



Pete Presenting Plaque to Family



The team showed Christ's love by giving the family some school supplies, an Evangelism soccer ball, and by loving on them and praying over them.



Special attention was given to Carmen, the grandmother who received a complete make-over of her bedroom designed by Sondra, plus a quilted wall-hanging from Community Church.



Throughout the week the team spent some time visiting other ministry sites as well as some cultural areas of Quito with us.



Carmen's family wants everyone to know that, "We were very low - emotionally, spiritually, and economically. Now we've been lifted up by your love. We are eternally grateful to Father God for you and these blessings!"

Thank you to everyone



who made this possible!

Nico, Beli, Carmen, Jenny, Isa, Verito (Absent from photo: Aly and Stefa)

FEBRUARY - ENCOUNTER WITH REFUGEES

Valentine's Day, I (Sondra) was making the long trek to the bus-stop to return home from the Zambiza After-School Program when I noticed a couple of young men, who appeared to be Venezuelan, with bedrolls on their backs and a couple of partially filled back-packs. They were standing in the median with a small box trying to sell candy to cars stopped at the traffic light. The condition of their clothes and hair and their weary faces told me they were most likely new refugees to Ecuador. **Everything in my human female mind said it would be foolish to approach these two young men, but everything in my soul said "Go, I'll be watching over you."** So, I went. They appeared skeptical of this gringa (white) lady approaching them but as I began speaking with them, they seemed to relax. I soon discovered that they had just arrived in Quito that morning. They had walked and hitched rides from Venezuela, through Colombia, to Ecuador, arriving in Otavalo, 2 hours north of Quito. But they quickly ran out of money. So, they walked the last 37 miles over dangerous, steep, mountainous terrain which normally takes a bus 2 hours to travel. They were weary, hungry, and broke hoping to sell a small box with candies in order to find something to eat for the day. I knew I only had bus change and a \$20 bill in my tote-bag. But the condition of their clothing, especially their shoes, and the weariness in their voices, told me they were in great need. **So, I gave them the money, along with a flyer giving which shared information about Pan de Vida, where they could find a hot meal, some shoes, and spiritual encouragement. Still in shock, they took the bill and flyer from my hand and hugged me with tears in their eyes and many 'thanks' spilling from their lips. In the grand scheme of things, the money is little, but the love that flowed toward them came from Jesus, someone Who can lead them to a new life.**

FEBRUARY - WEEKEND IN CONOCOTO

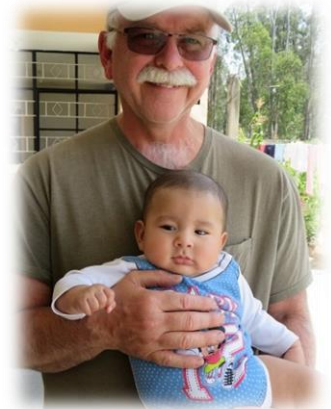
Raphael, Rosa, and their daughter Monica are a family we have known since 2008. They extended an invitation to stay with them for the weekend in the warm, sunny community of Conocoto where Monica used to teach at the orphanage and where we once sponsored 3 children. After our Reach Beyond staff meeting, and supper in Quito, we took a 2 ½ hour bus-ride and arrived after dark. They welcomed us with hot showers and hugs. After a good night's rest and breakfast, we went to the local shopping center to find a couple of baby gifts because **we would soon meet our new Ecuadorian grandson (Cristian and Katy's baby boy) for the first time! Aiden is 5 months old in this photo. We also visited some other friends we had not seen for a long time.**



Alicia and Lucio Frias
Retired Directors of the Orphanage



Cecilia and Bill Davis
Retired Missionaries from the Orphanage



Grandpa Darrell
and Aiden

FEBRUARY - ROSITA'S VISIT

We had not heard from Rosita in almost 5 months. Her marriage has been very strained recently and her studies this past semester, we knew, were more difficult than other semesters. She managed to pull herself away from everything and have some chat time with Sondra. We discovered that on top of the other challenges in her life, she had recently been quite sick for a few weeks and traveling from doctor to doctor trying to find out what was wrong. But no one seemed to have an answer. After seeing a natural doctor in Otavalo, she was told that her physical symptoms are real but that they are due to extreme stress. She asked Sondra's opinion, who consulted Darrell (a paramedic) and we both agreed that the stress of trying to maintain a family in an abusive household while also trying to obtain her degree has taken its toll on her body. But the great news - the homeopathic medicines are working. In addition, she and her children, Leisha and Sebastian are now seeing a family psychologist and are learning healthy coping mechanisms for their situation at home. Please continue to pray for Rosita as she completes her last two semesters and for Patricio, who by Rosita's description is not seeking work, drinking more, and depressed. Darrell continues to seek counsel on how and when to approach Patricio. Pray for wisdom, confidence, and the Lord's timing for Darrell.

PRAISES: 1) For a fruitful team mission project in January

2) For a milder rainy season which is helping the health conditions of the Venezuelan refugees

3) For the Lord's wisdom which helped Darrell narrowly escape being robbed on the bus recently

PRAYER: 1) For the Lord to work in each life of the mission team members, drawing them closer to Him

2) For the 250,000 Venezuelan refugees who have entered Ecuador - many in our neighborhood

3) For Rosita and her children's mental, emotional and spiritual health, and for Patricio's salvation



DARRELL AND SONDRA HOLDEN

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MISSIONARIES**



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