



Holden Newsletter – January 2015

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,

We thought we would “just relax” the last 2 weeks of semester break before returning to Spanish classes – little did we know that the entire month of January would be filled with unexpected activity!

Friday, January 2

We shopped for used furniture/housewares at the home of a missionary couple (Ramon and Wanda) who are soon leaving Ecuador. **We found some wonderful deals for our future home and thank the Lord for His provision!**

Saturday, January 3

We took “a day of rest” and spent most of the day at Carolina Park. This park reminds us of Central Park in New York where our son, Aric, lived. We were able to stretch out and nap on a blanket, eat hotdogs, popcorn and ice cream, and converse with Ecuadorian families who were also enjoying the day. We then took a long stroll through the Botanical Gardens inside the park. We spent almost 4 hours breathing in the fresh air and observing a multitude of plant life from various regions and ecosystems of Ecuador. The sounds of birds and a small waterfall helped us to escape the noise of this city of 2-3 million people for a few hours. **We praise our Father in heaven for this incredible day of restoration!**

Monday, January 5

The HCJB/Reach Beyond staff here watch closely over their missionaries. One of the staff met with us to discuss “how we are doing with language study, cultural adaption and various other topics. It was concluded that our 6-month stay here in 2011 and the other 5 short-term missions trips here, has helped us to meet and exceed their expectations. We are so grateful for the opportunities we’ve already had to learn so much about the country, culture, and it’s people!

Tuesday, January 6

Nicolas is a home-schooled high school student, from Wisconsin, who has committed to helping our ministry by serving as a web-master of our website. Please pray for Nicolas. Besides working on our website, he needs to catch up with his homework after spending 1 month in Arkansas helping to re-build homes for families affected by a last year’s natural disaster.

Thursday, January 8

Took the bus to HCJB/RB facility and picked out some used office furniture. We thank the Lord that we have so many opportunities to find what we need at such low prices!

Friday, January 9

Darrell and I traveled to San Lucia, a small barrio near Ambato, 2 ½ hours south of Quito. Edison, the corporal of the Carcelen Fire Dept and 5 of his firefighter friends from various departments, invited us to accompany them for a special visit see Antony, a 5 year old orphan. Antony’s mother, a female firefighter, was a friend of Edison’s. She and her husband and Antony’s 6 month old baby sister were killed in a car accident last October. Antony has been staying with aunt, a mentally ill grandmother, as well as, with parents of his school classmates. Antony’s grandmother and aunt do not have the resources to care for Antony and there are no organizations with resources in this small village to help the family. Edison explained to us that the children in Antony’s class have been bullying him, saying “You have no family, you have no friends, you have no one!” Edison and his firefighter friends, and Darrell and I, visited Antony’s class that day to put on a special program just for him. With all the firefighters’ dressed in the uniforms and Darrell dressed up as Papa Noel, we stood before the class and announced that we were Antony’s friends and that we are here to take care of him. Papa Noel presented Antony with 3 presents (toys) and one of the firefighter’s presented his grandmother and aunt with over \$1,000 that Edison and his friends had collected. We then gave a small party for the entire class with games, cake, and soda. After the children left, we shared a hot

meal with Antony, grandma, auntie, and his teacher. We then drove them to their little cement block house in the country and told them **with God's help, we were "here to stay" to help take care of Antony. Please pray for wisdom for us and Edison as we seek to find the resources needed to provide for his care.**

Saturday, January 10

Darrell helped Edison teach a first-aid class (in Spanish) to some university students. The relationship that Darrell has developed with the Carcelen Fire Dept has led us to believe that God is "at work" in this situation. Please pray that we will listen to His leading.

Monday, January 12

Darrell began 4 weeks of physical therapy for the plantar fasciitis condition he has developed in his feet. Paola, the relative of our family who is a Physical Therapist comes to our house to provide treatment for Darrell. She uses many methods of treatment which we know are very effective **and she is only charging \$10 for 1 hour of treatment! We continue to be amazed at the inexpensive health care available to us!**

Tuesday, January 13

We re-visited the Guayasamin Art Museum and purchased 2 copies of his work to send to our son, Colin (an artist). Colin's birthday was Dec 31. We most likely won't get it to him until someone travels to the U.S. next month but he will be surprised. We asked his girlfriend, Lisa to pick out the art from the internet because she knows what Colin would like. **Please pray that this gesture would help to build our relationship with him.**

Wednesday, January 14

We enjoyed a wonderful 2 hour conversation with Lisa over Skype-phone. She shared with us her insight as to how Colin is dealing with the death of his brother, his relationship with us, and all the challenges he is having in regard to the house he is renovating. Lisa is a wonderful level-headed, sweet gal. She has much wisdom, insight, and compassion and we are thrilled to have her as the love of our son's life! **Please pray for Lisa and Colin - that they are able to heal and move forward.**

Thursday, January 15

With the help of a fellow HCJB/RB missionary, **we managed to cram all the furniture and household items we bought** from both the HCJB/RB facility and Wanda and Ramon's apartment **into a van to transport it 1 hour north to Carcelen where we live. Thanking the Lord for Jim's muscle power and the use of his van!**

Friday, January 16

Today, Sondra video-Skyped with a woman in her Bible Study group in Wisconsin. Kathy has been making a lap-quilt from our son Aric's clothing. Today we were able to view the quilt via emailed photos and via Skype video. She has lovingly pieced together parts of Aric's clothing, including pockets, belt-loops, shirt cuffs, brand-name labels, emblems, etc into a beautiful pattern representing Aric's life. **We can hardly wait to have it in our hands. Please pray that we find a way to have someone transport it here safely.**

Saturday, January 17

Repaired and cleaned all of our second-hand furniture and found space to store it in our house until we move. Thanking God for the help of our Ecuadorian family and their willingness to accommodate us!

Sunday, January 18

Spent half the day cleaning out a storage space and inventorying and re-packing our personal items. Then was surprised to discover that we could view the Packer Game that day on Fox on the television! We listened to the game in Spanish which was both challenging and humorous, especially when trying to explain the game to our Ecuadorian family! God surprises us with interesting ways to learn Spanish!

Monday, January 19

Second semester has started and we are happy to be back in class! The pace of this semester will be much slower and this class is specifically tailored to meet our individual needs! After much discussion with our family, professor, and school director, we've decided to review our first semester so that we will be able to use more of what we were taught. After the first few weeks, Darrell will spend more time in 1-to-1 conversation with the professor and Sondra will progress to another class. Then in the last 4 of 14 weeks, each of us will be working on vocabulary specific to our mission assignments as well as Bible terminology. **We are so appreciative for the flexibility and great care that the staff in our school provides for us!**

Tuesday, January 20

Darrell needed to have 2 x-rays taken of his foot to rule out any bone spurs in his heels. Dr. Steven Nelson, a career missionary doctor with HCJB/RB sent us to the mission clinic/hospital and told us to tell the staff that he sent us. Wow, in 10 minutes we had an order for an x-ray! In 30 minutes we filled out paperwork, pre-paid the bill of only \$32, obtained 2 x-rays and left! **Praising God for great service and NO bone-spur!**

Wednesday, January 21, 24, and 25

Spent 3 days catching up on a mountain of ironing! There never seems to be enough time to get to it. And why do it? - between using cold water to wash the clothes, hanging it on the line to dry, and 99 % of our clothes being made from cotton, we'd rather not look like we slept in our clothes! **Thanking the Lord for an electric washing machine and sunny days to dry clothes (most people here do not own washers or dryers)**

Thursday, January 22

The corporal, the chief, and one fire-fighter from the Carcelen Dept drove us to Tumbaco, 45 minutes from Quito to pick up another load of furniture and household items from another missionary's home. Sheila, the Vice President of International Medical Missions with HCJB/RB is moving to Spain for the next year or more. She was looking to sell, loan, and give away some of her furniture. We happily came home with 2 appliances we bought and various other pieces of furniture she is loaning us or gave us! **We praise God in that we had no intention of looking for furniture until we were ready to move but He has provided us with 90% of everything we will need so far!**

Friday, January 23

Finished reading a book (in English) that was originally written in Spanish by 2 Ecuadorian authors. "Daybreak Over Ecuador" reveals the history of the dawning of Evangelism in this country. Ecuador was the last Latin American country to allow the Gospel within its borders! The strong ties between government and Catholicism, and the long painful history of the Ecuadorian people's fight for freedom (from being under the rule of the Inca's and the Spanish conquistadors) laid the groundwork for a long hard struggle to bring the Gospel into this country. **I praise God for having found this book in a "free box" in the HCJB/RB mail-room!**

Monday, January 26

We really feel the Lord is leading us to live here in Carcelen. But living 1 hour from HCJB/RB means that if the transportation system was affected by a national emergency it would be extremely difficult for Darrell to quickly get to the mission facility. Being that Darrell will be the coordinator of Emergency Management, they would like him to be available quickly in such a situation. The rent here in Carcelen is almost ½ of what it is near HCJB/RB so we should be able to save enough money to eventually buy a used motorcycle. **Until then, Darrell met with the District Captain of the Fire Dept. to discuss whether they would be able to transport him to HCJB/RB in one of their firetrucks during any possible national emergency.** So far, the Corporal and the District Captain have both approved it, but they need the approval of the top officials before making a commitment. **Please pray, that if it is the Lord's will, the top officials will approve this decision.**

Tuesday, January 27

Celebrated 11 yr old Nicolas's birthday. Bought him a red jacket (his favorite color) and shared cake and tea with the family. **We are blessed to be a part of this family and to be included in their special family events!**

Wednesday, January 28

Another trip to another missionary's home (Bob and Barb) to view items we may purchase. This is the third family we are aware of who is leaving the country this year after serving here for more than 30 years! Praising the Lord for each family's faithful service!

Skyped with Julie, my Stephen Minister back in Wisconsin. She is checking in on me as I move through the grief process of losing our son and encourages me as I deal with all the life changes this past year.

Thursday, January 29

Skyped with a friend back in Wisconsin to discuss shopping trips, internet orders and how to prepare to send our natural medicines and other personal items here in the next few months. Thankful for good friends, discounts on items needed, and the people the Lord provided to transport these things to us.

Friday, January 30

Visited the Middle of the World Museum at the Equator. Conversed with Ecuadorians in Spanish. Grateful for every opportunity to learn more and more about this country, it's culture and it's people!

Saturday, January 31

Took a long bus-ride to El Centro de Quito to look at very inexpensive, hand-made furniture in an open air market. Verito, the oldest daughter in our family accompanied us and connected us with her relatives who work in this market. We were able to get connected with a local family-owned business that might be able to build us made-to-order living room furniture for an excellent price. The Lord continues to amaze us with the way He takes such good care of us!

Thank you for your faithfulness to God's work in Ecuador through your financial support and prayers!



Darrell and Sondra Holden

Serving with Ripe For Harvest, Partnering with Reach Beyond



in Ecuador, South America



Send Your Financial Gifts to:

Ripe For Harvest
Acct 319
PO Box 487
Monument CO 80132-0487

Send Letters/Cards/Gifts to:

Darrell and Sondra Holden
c/o Tina Bush
1250 Peach St.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Our Email:

dsholden.ec@gmail.com

Our Personal Website:

www.ReachBeyondTheMountains.com