

# The Sunlight for Ecuador

The Datwylers with The Mission Society

## LIFE IN QUITO

BY DAINA

**Greetings in the Name of our wonderful Guide and Provider Jesus Christ.** Moving to a new place is always challenging as well as exciting and we are still up for more changes in the adventures God has called us to in Ecuador. We arrived in Quito on Nov. 15 and have been running ever since—cot so easy at this 9,500 ft. elevation (twice as high as Denver). Within 2 weeks we had found our apartment, moved in and bought appliances and some furniture- all without a car!

Our apartment in Quito is very nice with 3 bedrooms, an enormous kitchen and a living room with an incredible view of half of the city. We have gotten in excellent shape because we live on the NE mountainside of the valley on a busy street which passes by 3 levels below the apartment, so we climb--A LOT.

We found our car after about 6 weeks of walking everywhere and then back UP. Cars are not inexpensive but we were able to buy a 1980 Nissan Patrol 4WD. God is Good! We can now visit many of our ministry projects where God has us on a fast track with doors opening faster than we can plan. We spend much of our time exploring and learning about the people.

We visited one of our churches 2 hour south of Quito on my birthday to meet with Pastor Rodrigo about plans for a model farm and teaching Square foot gardening at the school. We had a wonderful meeting and joined Rodrigo in his God-size vision to help his community. We left with a sack of freshly harvested potatoes as my birthday gift.

A week earlier we were at another church finishing up with a short term mission team from GA. We were enjoying Sunday morning service when an elderly couple walked up the aisle with large bags of potatoes on their backs which they left at the altar as an offering. When the baskets were passed one returned with 2 eggs along with the jingling of coins. As you can imagine we are delighted to be working with indigenous new believers and curious, hungry seekers.

There is so much to tell you of the challenges and joys of our first 3 months. Yesterday we worked at Guayllababa where the church owns 12 acres of lime trees. We are preparing to begin the production of honey and help the church market honey and limes as a means to raise funds to be more self sustaining. In all of this we will work side by side with church and community members in hopes to teach at least the following principle from 2Cor. 9:6-15.

*“<sup>6</sup>Remember this: The farmer who plants a few seeds will have a very small harvest. But the farmer who plants because he has received God’s blessings will receive a harvest of God’s blessings in return. <sup>7</sup>Each of you should give whatever you have decided. You shouldn’t be sorry that you gave or feel forced to give, since God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>Besides, God will give you his constantly overflowing kindness. <sup>9</sup>Then, when you always have everything you need, you can do more and more good things. <sup>9</sup>Scripture says,*

*“The righteous person gives freely to the poor.  
His righteousness continues forever.”*

*<sup>10</sup>God gives seed to the farmer and food to those who need to eat. God will also give you seed and multiply it. In your lives he will increase the things you do that have his approval. <sup>11</sup>God will make you rich enough so that you can always be generous. Your generosity will produce thanksgiving to God because of us. <sup>12</sup>What you do to serve others not only provides for the needs of God’s people, but also produces more and more prayers of thanksgiving to God. <sup>13</sup>You will honor God through this genuine act of service because of your commitment to spread the Good News of Christ and because of your generosity in sharing with them and everyone else. <sup>14</sup>With deep affection they will pray for you because of the extreme kindness that God has shown you. <sup>15</sup>I thank God for his gift that words cannot describe.” (God’s Word Translation)*

**I cannot wait to see what God shows us tomorrow!**





## UP TO THE ROOFTOP

What does a pastor/school principal do when he has no land to teach what God has put on his heart to help his community? Not a huge problem unless he needs to teach gardening. Pastor Rodrigo has a plan to follow his heart, we will go to the rooftop of the school, build a greenhouse and teach square-foot gardening with drip irrigation. The added benefit is that the school can use the crops produced for the daily feeding program and the kids can use or sell the rest. Big Vision which requires a Big God to provide all that is needed. You all know our Big God and the community of Pasto Calle is beginning to see Him through some new creative ways.

This is just one example of the many ways we can help pastors share Christ's infinite love. Please continue to pray and support the work in Ecuador. As we open the scriptures to the many examples that Jesus used to teach the people to see God as they work the land to survive.

## ABUNDANCE

BY TIM

The abundance of opportunities to minister that God provides us with seems to be endless. We have been here in Ecuador just 3 months and God has already given us several new friends. He has also guided and given us open doors for new ministries in areas which we have no experience. At this time I will give you just one example of a few newly open doors and God's provision to our inexperience.

In a church to the north of Quito (where we live) near the town of Otavalo we have been given the opportunity to help the church provide a portion of the food needed to feed 225 children 3 days/week. The children also attend Bible classes and tutoring for schoolwork since most of the parents don't know how to read so are unable to help them. They recently **purchased** a piece of land adjacent to the church that will provide a place to leech waste water and grow food to supplement the feeding program which is a Compassion International project. The community will now have the chance to learn about drip irrigation as we use it in this project.

In this same community called Pijal, a few of the members invited us to see the other side of the mountain after we finished work one day. They seemed very anxious that we take them. We all got on the bus and drove around the side of the mountain and kept going to the end of a beautiful valley. We all got off the bus and began to see and listen to the vision of about 15 young families of the community. The place was an abandoned fish farm which they had put in production with great sacrifice and hope. The trout had been well cared for and about to be sold a few months earlier when a flood wiped out one of the walls and overflowed all the trout down the river. They have also begun working on a couple of abandoned lodges in hopes of opening an Eco-Tourism business (that's the roughing-it type of vacation). Most of the work has stopped because of the loss of income from the flood. God began to show us that we may be able to help them in some way. Two days later we met a brother who owns an eco tourism hotel in the Amazon. We shared about our friends in Pijal and he has agreed with delight to help us help them.

No, that's not all that happened over the span of 2 weeks. Jacinto, the pastor of the church, raises strawberries to supplement his income. He has had a lot of trouble with production because he cannot afford first generation plants which produce much better. He has asked us for help so we have begun to develop a plan to enable him to produce first generation plants for himself and to sell to the community. He already has orders for 100,000 plants.

It is our prayer that God continues to open the doors He wants us to go through to reach many more for Christ. It is so exciting and we feel honored to be His servants and to be able to help the church help themselves. Thank you for your continued support and partnering with us in ministry. (Romans 1:10)

## IN A FARAWAY PLACE

We have a friend named Carmen who cooks lunch for the mission teams when they are here and is a seminary student. She told us about a pastor who ministers in a community to the south where all the people are evangelical Christians. Pastor Manuel came to Quito to meet with us and invite us to lend a hand to his people who are suffering because of the recent (Aug.-Sept.) eruptions of Volcano Tungurahua which dumped 6" of ash on all their farmland. Because of economics, all except the old and the young have left to find work in other places. We drove there with offerings of cloths from our local woman's group, rice, sugar, salt, pasta, oil and candy. We were met by dozens of children and happy grandparents (I think most of them were great-grandparents). They were so grateful for the short visit and the love shown by many through the sharing of cloths and food. To me the surprising blessing to them all was when I shared my hand and face cream with them all – children, women, as well as the men. I was overwhelmed by the thankfulness in such a small act of caring. They taught me the Quichua words for thank you – "Dio le paga" which means may God repay you for your kindness. It was a 5-6 hour drive each way which blessed us in eternal ways.



## HARVEST TIME

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."*

*Gal. 6:9-10*

Once again and with renewed hearts of thanks to God for our partnership – Thank You. Your love and care through prayers, giving and the extra mile note, card or gift are what hold us up, just as Caleb did for Joshua as the battle continued right at their feet. May God richly bless each of you for your sacrifice to see others brought into God's family. We will all meet up in heaven.

Tim, Daina and Kevin Datwyler

**THANK YOU FOR BEING  
PARTNERS IN ALL SEASONS**

## WHAT'S UP WITH KEVIN???

Hey, this is Kevin. I'm having a great time in Ecuador. I think I might be a little busier in ministry than my parents, or I like to wish I am. Well right now I'm working mainly at the central church in Quito as well as out and about with my parents. When we got here to Ecuador, the church we go to normally didn't have a youth group meeting at all. I felt a calling that it needed one and the Pastor's daughter did too. So Sofi and I got together one Saturday and planned out how we would get the youth group started. The next Sunday we invited a few youth to come. On the following Saturday guess how many showed up? Five and it went great. Now we have a steady group of about ten youth with up to 18 in attendance.

Our outreach plan to attract more youth is to begin a café. This café will be possible by a project that I am working on for youth groups from the US to support projects of youth groups in Ecuador. The way it works is the youth group in Ecuador plans a project and tells a youth group from the US how much it will cost to make it possible. In my case it's the café. Once we have the café up and running, the youth group from the US can come down and see the fruits of their investment. Hopefully by then we'll have raised enough money to be able to make an investment ourselves and start a project apart from the café. The reason this is cool is because it's like the parable of the talents. We're returning the investment with interest. I'm in the process of going to the various churches in my region and asking them what projects they would like to begin. I'm trying to find churches in the US that would like to support these projects which enrich the lives of youth who are looking for a way to reach their friends who do not know Christ. This is a great project because it gets everyone involved. If you would like to know more just drop me an email at [f117kevin@gmail.com](mailto:f117kevin@gmail.com).



## 3 MONTH REVIEW

### TO PRAY FOR

- ⇒ **Guayllabamba-Bees and trees**
- ⇒ **Pijal-Model farm, drip irrigation, eco-tourism, community outreach**
- ⇒ **Pasto Calle-greenhouse, teaching intensive gardening, model farm, feeding program, community outreach**
- ⇒ **English-computers and space**
- ⇒ **Youth-space**
- ⇒ **Men's and Women's ministries**

Our first weeks were spent searching for an apartment in Quito, buying appliances and furniture, and then putting it all together in the midst of adjusting to the culture and the 2 mile high living while walking everywhere. We then found a 1980 Nissan Patrol to buy at an incredibly elevated price which was actually a good deal. With transportation we began to visit and scope out some of our proposed project sites and best of all get to know the people with their varied cultures and living conditions.

We had an amazing week before Christmas!!! We connected with a group who was here to put on Christmas parties for some preschools and communities which they work with. We shared the Christmas story, candy cane story, painted paper plate angels, sang songs, served happy meals and gave out teddy bears to over 400 kids under the age of 6!!! There were 3 separate groups so it was controlled chaos. It was most likely the only party they celebrated—the teachers and moms were very blessed and thankful. They surely saw Jesus shining amidst the group and each other—I sure saw Him painted all over the precious faces and felt His love through all the little hugs.

We helped with an outreach Christmas lunch for the street kids and families who sell stuff in the streets. Our church Emanuel of the Evangelical United Methodist Church of Ecuador worked to make this a special day for the 150 people who attended. The tables were set with tablecloths and edible centerpieces. We served chicken soup—(they were fighting over the chicken feet), a rice plate with veggies and chicken, rolls and for dessert there was mango gelatin and a cookie. They all received a small gift and candy on the way out. This is an ongoing ministry of the church which serves a 40 cent meal every Friday which has an attendance of over 50.

We also helped with a community party on Sat. What a joy and testimony of God's transforming love in this community. We heard several testimonies of how God is changing lives which is beginning to transform this community full of violence and overwhelming poverty. After the party was over and the kids left, the women who are being discipled weekly gathered to say thank you and then shared that the most important thing that they have been taught (Jesus was first) was that **they needed to love their children!!** Wow, what a cultural lesson. We look forward to the possibility of planting a church in this community.

The week of January 7<sup>th</sup> our first team worked in the Pijal church near a town to the north called Otavalo where the biggest and best market in the Americas is located. The team ministered to over 350 people with a dental clinic and also building stairs to the second level classrooms. The trip ended with a 3 day visit to Baeza, the entrance to the Amazon. We had an incredible but tiring experience in eastern Ecuador.

On the same day the team left, Larry Williams – Director of Agrimissions arrived to continue his vital assistance and advice as we muddle through the many opportunities presented to us in agriculture. At each stage of Larry's week long visit, God opened doors and hearts to the vision of helping improve the way of life for subsistence farmers and their families as we love them into God's family. We now spend much of our time reading volumes of training material which Larry sends to us over e-mail as we prepare to launch several projects and ministries.

