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# CHURCH-PLANTING MISSIONARIES

among Andean Kichwa villages in Northern Ecuador

April, 2025

Hello to all of our faithful prayer and financial supporters!

### Furlough Change of Plans:

We had an unexpected series of events that drastically changed our previous furlough plans. First, we were facing several sensitive situations with families in our ministry that required our attention. Second, our children's homeschooling year has been on a very difficult schedule due to our inability to get their resources last summer and several ministry opportunities that have presented themselves unexpectedly over the past six months. Because of this, Jadon and Levi will finish with their school year a little later than normal. Lastly, we were unable to raise the needed funds in time to purchase a vehicle for our furlough that was originally planned for this month. Because of these issues, we had peace that God was leading us to postpone our furlough although we did not understand.

But, just as always, the Lord showed that this was His perfect plan. After finishing a week of camp in mid-March, we had planned to travel to the USA for furlough just a few days later. However, we returned from this camp very ill. In fact, the illness kept getting worse and worse, and moved through our entire family. We spent nearly four weeks, altogether, taking turns with the sickness, which turned out to be an extremely difficult round of Covid. Had we continued with our plans to travel at the end of March and into April, we would have been sick and unable to travel to our churches. God closed the doors because He knew what lay ahead and what was best. This has been a great reminder to simply trust the Lord, even (or, especially) when He changes our plans (Proverbs 3:5-6).

We have rescheduled our furlough for August through mid-September. We appreciate your prayers for that furlough, our travels, funds for the furlough vehicle, and that the Lord would bless our ministry while we are stateside, and that He will bless the ministry in Ecuador while we travel.

### Camp Ministry:

The Lord tremendously blessed the camp ministry in March and April. In March, we served in the same camp where we ministered last March, down on the coast of Ecuador. We always serve in this

camp with a group of Ecuadorian pastors who truly have a passion for reaching this generation of young people in Ecuador. This year, the Lord blessed beyond what we can describe in this letter. We had over 200 teens from the worst of the worst areas of Ecuador, many of whom were unsaved before the camp. We spent the week preaching to, teaching, and counseling these young people through situations more difficult than many can imagine. One young man, who is 17, confessed to me that he had just recently planned the murder of a teen from a rival gang. He felt nothing when he made the plans, but when his fellow gang members followed through with the murder that he had planned, reality set in. Now, he is trapped in drugs (which he's been addicted to since he was 10), gangs, and legal trouble. We were able to point this young man to Christ as His only hope! To the glory of God, we saw over 60 decisions for Christ during the week of camp, all of which are now connected to local churches and Ecuadorian pastors who can continue the work of discipleship in their lives!

The camp in April was in an area new for us, only about three hours from where we live and serve. It was in a remote area that lies between the Andes mountains and the coast. There is very little work being done in this area, and there is a desperate need for church planting missionaries. We had 22 teens in this camp, 12 of which made decisions for Christ! There is only one local church in the area, but the new believers will be connected to that church.



Preaching at the Camp in March



### Kichwa Ministry Update:

Among the Kichwa people our work continues to be blessed by the Lord. The Pastoral Training continues to meet weekly via zoom and monthly on the ministry property. The Rumipamba Chico church plant is growing, both numerically and spiritually. One brother in the church recently began a men's ministry. The music and children's ministries are also growing and are visibly blessed by the Lord! The Bible Institutes are continuing well, and the church plant in San Clemente is still meeting weekly on Wednesday nights. In the Rumipamba Chico church, we are preaching through 1 Samuel on Sunday mornings and through Philippians on Thursday evenings. Two brothers in the church are helping with the preaching on Sunday mornings as they prepare for pastoral ministry.

Thank you so much for your support and your prayers!

Serving Him Together,  
Will and Laura