



PERSONAL CONTACT

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SENDING CHURCH

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MISSIONS AGENCY

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CHURCH-PLANTING MISSIONARIES

among Andean Kichwa villages in Northern Ecuador

October, 2025

Furlough:

Our furlough has come to an end...kind of (more on that later). We have truly had a special time here in the USA. Our family has travelled more than 10,000 miles over the course of two months, and we have slept in more beds than we can count! While this has been tiring and makes us miss our home, we have experienced so many blessings and have had so much joy during this time! Our churches have blessed us more than we can express. We have been in large churches and smaller churches, in big cities and in towns of less than 200 people. We have visited 20 states, and many national and state parks. This has been an amazing opportunity for our family to experience a part of our great country that we have never experienced before.

But, more than anything, we are finishing this furlough more encouraged than ever by the work that God is doing around the United States of America! We were truly amazed by the faithful and generous church members all across the country, and the faithful pastors and pastors' families that labor selflessly, week after week, fulfilling their call and being faithful to their Lord, many times in seemingly forgotten places. If you read the news or look at the stats for too long, you can easily get discouraged; but, when you look around, visit these churches, and get to know their faithful pastors, you will be encouraged by the work that God continues to do to advance His kingdom, even in a dark age!



Mount Rushmore!

New Vehicle:

We mentioned in our last update that we needed to raise funds to purchase a vehicle for this furlough, and for the future changes that our sons will be experiencing over the next few years. We are so thankful for your generosity in helping us with this need. We were able to purchase the perfect vehicle for our travels from an assistant pastor at Laura's home church. Thank you, again, for your special offerings!



Furlough Vehicle: Laura Named her "Pearl"

Political Unrest:

As we finish our furlough, we are facing issues of protests and unrest in Ecuador that are affecting our return. Our tickets to return were originally for two days ago on October 1, but we had to change that date for next week, October 9. The unrest in Ecuador has led to many indigenous groups attempting to shut down the country by denying any travel from taking place within Ecuador. These groups do so by setting up road blocks on all major road systems with burning tires, fallen trees, and mounds of rocks and dirt well over five to eight feet tall. This is just like the protests that we saw in Ecuador in 2019 and 2022. You may remember, in 2019, we were evacuated from Ecuador because the fighting got so close to our home. That was the time that we had to walk to the airport with our sons, luggage, and two Kichwa men that accompanied us to keep us safe. The protest in 2022 didn't get extremely violent, so we were able to stay in Ecuador during the weeks of rioting.



Protests in the city about 30 minutes from our home. The protestors pictured here are the people that we work and live with in the villages.

However, the current protest has made it impossible for us to get to our home. Out of the 27 provinces in Ecuador, the rioting is primarily focused in one province, and that is the one where we live! Consistently we pull up the national news in Ecuador and see pictures of rioting within about a minute or two of our home, with people that we know from our work in the villages. We could get into Ecuador on the plane, but we cannot get to our home with the road closures. So, instead of being stuck in the capital city and paying for hotels during the rioting, we have decided to postpone our trip until we can get home. Lord willing, we will be able to go this coming week. In the next couple of weeks we have a wedding and a conference to host. But, with all of the rioting, those events are likely to be canceled. Please pray with us that God will give us wisdom regarding this situation, and please pray for peace in Ecuador.

Thank you so much for your support and your prayers!

Serving Him Together,
Will and Laura