

LATEST NEWS FROM ECUADOR – JAN 2024

Dear Ones,

First a heartfelt thanks to all who help with gifts and prayer support. We pray you are blessed in the ways you most need.

The world news is overwhelming and we feel helpless that we cannot be of more help to the suffering. However, our prayers can do what we can't. At the local level. Here is some news: In the last newsletter I eagerly described a new outreach we were endeavoring to fulfill which was to get the gospel message into local prisons via the queue of visitors waiting to be allowed entry. We have managed one visit only so far!

However, since then, we took a long trip into the centre of the city, following the google routes to another prison:



Only to find that it had been converted into a college of further education! (Out of date google info!). Above photo shows the former prison. Of course seeing this as a GOD OPPORTUNITY, we were able to distribute tracts to the myriad of students. ∴ (See photo below)



The prison had long been moved to another city! We will seek more official information as to the locations of prisons and detention centres in Quito!

Also I, Jenny, came down with a virus, and an increased joint pain in my shoulder and neck preventing me from being active, and from the use my arm much, let alone travel on buses in which one has to hang on literally! I have been treating with ice and heat, an occasional pain killer, ointment, resting in a neck brace and arm sling:



Along with prayer and communion! It has improved but as yet hindering much bus travel.. So I need to WAIT ON THE LORD, TO BE ENCOURAGED SO THAT HE CAN STRENGTHEN MY HEART! (Paraphrased from psalm 27!)

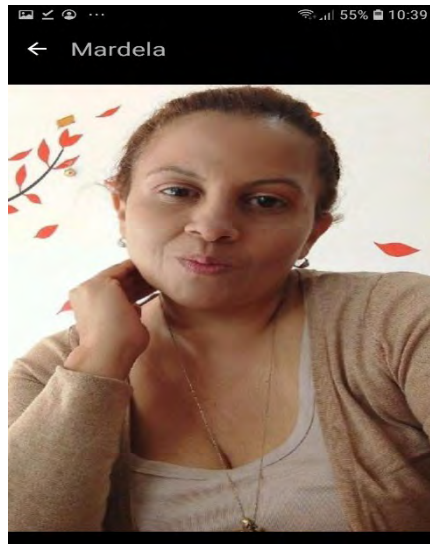
However we have been able to make a local bus ride to the next neighborhood, Pomasqui, where we have evangelized and follow up on people we have met as well as do any business and shopping. We have been encouraged to find people hungry for the Word, especially students pouring out of the local secondary schools. One appreciative person is Gregorio and his family of 3 children. (See photo below) He is already a Christian and very thankful for the biblical articles we give him.



On our last trip to a prison, we met Nelson , a very needy Venezuelan immigrant who cannot get a job. He and his wife and daughter are already Christians. We have been able to help them with a little funds as well as a box of used clothing and canned goods



Britanny in the photo above is the afro Ecuadorian adult daughter of Sandra, of whom we wrote in an earlier Newsletter. Brittany is busy studying nursing and loves the articles we send via the internet. Her mother, Sandra, in the photo also is thankful for these regular feedings which she says keep her uplifted. As explained before, Sandra is a single mother of 4 and has struggled to make a living. We have helped her out in little ways and will make a Christmas food box for her.



These 3 beauties, Andrea, mother of 2, one of whom is a special needs child, Mardela, mother of teens, and Tatty. A long term girl who has grown up with us from adolescence, Are faces of 3 of our internet Bible students and whom we visit monthly. We continue ministering online to about 350 people via email and WhatsApp.



JAIME FLORES, in the above photo serving us for at least 30 years, is just now printing 24, 000 tracts ..3 titles of 8, 000 each. We are thankful for your gifts which help us with printing and travel, living costs and to share with those the Lord points us to.

Sneider , in the photo below, a single adopted father, fathering his orphaned nephew Emmanuel, is a long term younger generation Colombian Missionary living and serving in his poor neighborhood up in the mountains where dysfunction abounds due to the former Farc members settling there. We have mentioned him before and we donate a small gift monthly. Hand some volunteers provide daily breakfasts for some of the needy neighborhood school children.



For this we are so grateful for your gifts so that we can share.

I remember what the Lord said "THE POOR YOU ALWAYS HAVE WITH YOU!" (Well He was referring to His shorter time with his disciples that he had in comparison to the poor who were always and will be always with us). However when we step out of our apartment. It starts. The poor are upon us, always with us. In the streets, on the buses....elderly non pensioned folks, immigrants, unemployed.... it has become more overwhelming over the years here in Ecuador. We can return to our safe abode and give thanks for all we have. A roof that does not leak. A roof even! A bed and blankets, a fridge with food, internet, light, water, gas bottles to cook with! All this and Jesus too!

Love and gratefulness,

Jennifer and Gonzalo