

Welch Family News

Summer 2008....The Season of Teams



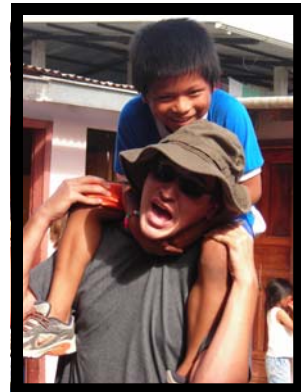
We said goodbye to the team from Patti Sue's home church from Mississippi and welcomed a team from our home church. While the **Family Church** visited this month, the theme was beauty. Ben G. talked about true beauty and used the mental picture of the girls muddy after serving in Sacha Runa their first full day in Ecuador. The actual picture is to the left. What a joy it was to serve along side those in Sacha Runa and encourage one another. What you can't see is the trail that these ladies (and the guys) walked with the heavy sand bags. It was muddy, rocky, slippery — and raining. The sand bags were heavy, itchy, and made ink stains on their clothing. But there were no complaints, only smiles.



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We were also blessed with sweet fellowship and personal encouragement. We were encouraged by everyone's interest in our ministry in Sacha Runa as well as personally encouraged as believers and parents. What a sweet time of refreshment!

The guys from The Family Church spent the work week filling the holes for the base of the water tower with cement. It was a huge job, but they completed it by working together and following the plan set out. It is really neat to see a group of youth come and grow in their personal relationships as well as their relationship with the Lord. This group also made new friendships with the people from Sacha Runa as well as the children and workers at Casa de Fe.



The day the group from The Family Church left, a team of 38 came from **Manor Church** in Pennsylvania led by Keith Miller along with help from Youth World. With such a large group, they were able to work at the Casa de Fe property, with the children of Casa de Fe, and were the first group to help with the actual building of the church in Sacha Runa. The current rental home for Casa de Fe now has beautiful murals on the wall for the children to look at as well as a wall of hand (and foot) prints from each child living at Casa de Fe. The water tower at the Casa de Fe property is coming along, and the team hauled an incredible amount of heavy materials up the slippery hill including 110lb bags of cement. The part of the team that went to Sacha Runa was able to move the rest of the sand and rocks for the church, to the other side of the bridge before the province puts in the first road in Sacha Runa. They also poured the upper beams on the new church building. The next step will be the roof. The trip ended with a soccer game. The team from Manor church played Jaime and his brothers and friends.



A team from Georgia called this month, and will be bringing a team in October to help specifically with the church building in Sacha Runa. The people of Sacha Runa were initially wondering if a group helping would be a good thing or not. The teams from Family Church and Manor Church were a great blessing to them and they are excited about the possibility of future teams.

We have a couple coming the first week of July, followed by a team from Iowa and a team from Community Church of Mars in Pennsylvania. That will round out of teams for the summer. We absolutely love having groups come, but we are also looking forward to a time of rest, a time of being able to go forward in our ministry in a more personal, one on one way, and hopefully strengthening our Spanish skills and learning Quechua.



Family Life in Ecuador



Valerie Grace and Travis

Our girls were so blessed to spend time with the men and women from Patti Sue's church who came to visit in May, and again with love from the teams from the Family Church and Manor Church. It can be hard for our girls to be away from Grandparents, but they had no shortage of family this month.

Valerie Grace always picks out "her boy". She had 3 or 4 boys from the Family Church, but took her time choosing a boy from Manor Church. The last day of the trip, she chose two boys (Caleb and Keith). Each team that comes to serve with us, has become like family. Saying good bye is difficult (and Valerie Grace refuses to say it most of the time).

We started out June very ill. I had a throat abscess and the rest of the family was sick as well. We have now recovered and just did our 6 month treatment for getting rid of parasites (and are feeling good :)

The group from The Family Church brought down our large box of school books for next year. I am excited about starting the next school year. This year we have loosely homeschooled and tried to focus more on adjusting to a new culture and learning Spanish.



We will be moving in just two more months and are looking forward to it very much. The girls will be able to have rooms downstairs and we will be closer to Sacha Runa.

Natalie Joy turned 6 this month, and has now celebrated two birthdays in Ecuador. Craig took her out to eat at her favorite restaurant in Puyo with the team from Family Church (pictured with Lorielle, left).



Valerie Grace with Parker, one of her favorite boys

Lorielle and Danielle from The Family Church were water baptized in the river by Sacha Runa along with a brother in Christ.



Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

Romans 4:4-10

Praise that Maria's husband, Augusto, is now living in Shell for the next 3 months with Maria, and their two boys. He has been stationed away from Shell, in the military, for quite some time.



Augusto has recommitted his life to Christ and is planning to be baptized.

Current prayer needs -

For our main focus to be on spending time with the Lord in all that we do

For us to be transparent in our ministry

For the children of Casa de Fe, that families can be reunited when possible and for the spiritual growth of the children there as well as our own children

For the people of Sacha Runa to grow in their love for Christ and their knowledge of his love for them and in grace.

Continued wisdom in serving where the Lord wants us to serve

Continued safety and protection

For Valerie Grace, continued good vision, happy days, and healing

Donations may be mailed to:

The Family Church, 2022 SW 122nd St, Gainesville, FL 32607

Be sure to make checks out to **The Family Church** and

write Welch/Ecuador in the memo line. All gifts are tax deductible and 100% of donated funds goes towards our ministry.

