

Ministry Update

One Saturday this month, I was asked to walk out to visit an elderly lady who had been bitten by a venomous snake. What I didn't know, was that the snake bite happened earlier this year and that her leg had already been completely amputated. As is common with people in Sacha Runa, she had loads of medicines with her that the doctor had prescribed, but she had not taken any of it. She was a sweet lady who wanted to hear more about Jesus, but who chose to wait until it was time for her stitches to come out before going to see the doctor again. The walk to her house was very difficult—muddy, slippery, rivers to cross that had very thin branches used as bridges. As I struggled to make my way home without falling, I prayed for this woman, wondering how she would be getting around in the future.



We went back out to bring food to the family the following week. She immediately carefully opened a bag of strawberries and began eating them (a treat she had obviously had before). We told her that we could help get her to the hospital to have her stitches removed and explained to her about crutches. She laughed and laughed when I told her that it would be possible for her to walk around on her own. We contacted the hospital and were told that they did have crutches for sale. Friday morning, Craig drove to Sacha Runa and walked out to this lady's home. Her daughter carried her on her back all the way to the car (over that same muddy, slippery path, with a stream and a river to cross). They then drove to the mission hospital, had her stitches removed, and watched as she stood and walked with her new crutches. We were also able to provide her with a hammock chair for her home.



This woman who felt she would be permanently confined to a mattress on the floor and would have to use a bowl for a toilet, now has been given the opportunity to walk again. Not only has she been brought renewed hope for her physical walk, but also for her walk with the Lord.

Through your support, we are able to meet physical needs as well as show the Lord's children that they have a eternal hope and a future.

Thank you!

Family Happenings



Our girls have continued to have an ever expanding circle of local friends. Our typical day consists of doing home school in the mornings, then we have a yard full of girls playing at our home, or our girls are out in the street playing with their friends. Valerie was invited to a pre-school party out in Sacha Runa and also went to the local elementary school one day with Maria. I continue to hear from the girls who come over each day about how excited they were to see Valerie Grace at their school. It is very exciting to see our girls very comfortable living in Ecuador and not afraid of the language barrier. I cannot say that their Spanish is very good, but they are able to communicate and have lost their fear in trying to do so. The parents of the girls who come over have told me how thankful they are that I allow their girls to come over and play. That means a lot.

We will continue to have school at home over the summer, or at least until the local schools are out in July.

Craig and I celebrated our 14th anniversary last month (though we celebrated from opposite hemispheres). When I returned to Ecuador, Craig had many surprises waiting....a free parrot, a bathtub that he made for me, and a wonderful raised garden. The girls and I have enjoyed planting things, and hope that our pet monkey who runs loose will stop digging up and eating all of our seeds. We planted sweet corn, sweet potato and other goodies that we cannot find often here.

Before



Teams

After



This month, we hosted a team of 18 from Pennsylvania (Manor Church). The team helped with building a bridge to assist the lady who had her leg amputated. They also helped improve the path to the

church by putting rocks on the muddy path. Each evening they spent time just loving on the children and youth. In addition, they provided funding that will go towards a building for children's church in another jungle community as well as helping with a church in San Francisco (the one here in Ecuador). Both of these churches are sister churches of the church in Sacha Runa.

One thing this team did that no other team has done is they all stayed overnight in Sacha Runa in different homes. The people of Sacha Runa gave a whole new meaning to hospitality. We told them, in preparation for the team, that there was not need to purchase anything or change their normal routine. When I walked to each home to drop off the two team members staying at each home, I was amazed at the incredible hospitality. People had purchased mattresses for their guests, they had put plastic up on the ceilings to keep the dust from falling on their heads, they gave up their bedrooms and beds for their guests. Each family also bought food to prepare a big meal, not only for the team, but for the children and families who had been playing games with the team members during the week. They prepared a table for the guests and served them the largest portions, they sacrificed their time and comfort for strangers....I believed they humbled us all as well.



Prayer Requests and Praises

- Praise for how well Valerie Grace is doing
- Praise that Natalie Joy accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior
- Pray for us to continue to build relationships and be open to the Holy Spirits leading in our lives and our ministry here
- Pray for the people of Sacha Runa to hunger for the Lord and for them to realize that His love is a free gift
- Pray that as English classes continue each week in Sacha Runa, that students would be moved by God's Word as they learn their verses in English each week

Please email and let us know how we can be praying for you as well!

Partner with us in Ecuador

Your prayers and financial contributions are what help make our ministry possible. If you would like to partner with us in ministry to the people of Ecuador, please ask God how He can best use you and the gifts He has given you. If you would like to serve short term, as an individual or with a team, contact Craig at the email address listed below.

Contact the Welch Family

Mailing address in Ecuador

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Make a Contribution

For charitable donation tax credit, make checks payable to:

Eternal Hope Ministries

Mail to:

The Family Church
2022 NW. 122nd St
Gainesville, FL 32606



Thank you for your prayers for our ministry as well as your financial support this month. For the first time in a long time, we had our monthly needs met by your generous donations. We also have felt the prayers of many. Special thank you to everyone who has joined our prayer team as well.