

Welch Family News

We have certainly had no shortage of things to be praying about. Many decisions about new homes, new vehicles, medical issues, insurance issues, a directions that the Lord may be leading us. We have been re-evaluating what the Lord's will is, and know that for most, His desire is for us to be with Him (our hearts, minds, and souls). We have been so busy with the 'work' of being here, that this was a very important thing for us to do. We have been more intentional with our girls and the girls from Casa de Fe. Our project this month has been making pillowcases with Bible verses on them in Spanish for the girls from Casa de Fe. We have been finding ways to spend more time with them and with the Lord—together.

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.



Jessica

This month, we did not get the truck we planned on getting, instead another missionary family purchased it and we know the Lord has a plan in all of that. We did however get approved for a house we had been wanting to rent which is wonderful because the house we are renting just sold and we will need to be out in September. We have felt renewed joy and excitement for staying here and feel more committed than ever. We will be working on getting our residency visas during the next few months. This has been recommended by our board. This will be an larger expense than a missionary visa, but will have many added benefits and will not need to be renewed.



Jennifer

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.



The girls and I went to Florida late April through mid May. It was quite a travel adventure. They were able to enjoy a lot of time with both sets of grandparents, a visit to the zoo, a beach trip, and other fun things. I was greatly encouraged by our church family and friends.

Valerie Grace had her MRI which showed slow, but never the less, growth of the tumor. We met with radiation specialists and felt that the Lord was not leading us in that direction right now. We were able to get a prescription for an oral medication, but so far, have not been able to get her to swallow the rather large capsules. Amazingly, we all have a great peace with everything.

We flew back with my parents and they spent a week with us in Ecuador. My dad and I sampled fried palm grubs (which are quite large and tasted a bit like salty shrimp). Craig and I were able to enjoy a few date nights in Puyo. We tried out two new restaurants and just walked around town. My parents then made the trip back up to Quito and were



blessed with an English speaking driver (which is rare) and he took them to the equator for some sight seeing and tours. They then flew back to Charlotte the next morning.

Cousin Steven then returned from his big adventures in Columbia to help Craig some more at the property and has been able to experience life in a house with 4 little girls. Cousin Steven left at the end of the month, the day our first summer team arrived. We went out to eat and were served cow intestines and liver. Valerie loved it, and I loved her for sitting in my lap and eating it all for me so I didn't have to.

Other big news—Natalie Joy lost her first tooth!



Ephesians 2:17-22



There have been several new faces at Casa de Fe. Irene, pictured below/left, came to Casa de Fe with her sister. Their mom had terminal cancer and died. The mom said that she wants the dad to be in their life right before she died. Please pray that these children can be reunited with their father and have a healthy family relationship.

With more children, I know Patti Sue is anxious to be able to move out of the rental homes that are quite full. Craig and Jaime have worked on the second bridge and it is almost completed. The main project right now though, is finishing the water tower.

First Assembly Church of Gainesville, FL donated the money for the water tower, and the groups this summer will help finish that up. After that, the next project will depend on funding. There still is no electricity at the property. Also, the price of metal/rebar has almost doubled since we have lived here, and so the prices for the houses for the children will certainly be higher than originally expected.

There is a girl named Jill visiting Casa de Fe now who came to help the children learn English. There are English classes in Ecuadorian schools, but the teachers do not know how to pronounce the words well. If the children can learn to speak English, there will be more opportunities for them as adults. Some of the local missionaries are also doing a club that meets at a local restaurant Thursday nights,

where people in the community can come and practice their English.

The church in Sacha Runa is well underway, and they are also working as a community on several other projects. While Steven was here, he was able to talk with some of the people over there and give them some ideas for the tourist business they are going to be building. There are not many jobs in Ecuador, but there are many tourists, so this will be a great way for them to earn money. I think learning English will be very important.



Above—Dioselina

Below—Maribel with Irene



Steve with the plant nursery he created at the property



Marcia

Please pray for Shirley who broke her knee cap while going through the Quito airport. Shirley came down with a group from Patti Sue's church (First Baptist Church/Brookhaven) this week.

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

We had two weeks in May with no support that came in, however, we feel more than ever that this is where the Lord wants us. We have prayed with the board at our church and have also been talking with Pastor Max and we are all in agreement that this is where we are supposed to be. We do not get paid by Casa de Fe, or anyone else down here. Instead, our support goes to pay for our normal air travel, auto/bus travel, housing, food, insurance, school materials, tools, materials for our mission work, and construction. **We are in need of more monthly supporters and would also greatly appreciate your prayers.**

Our church will be doing a full financial accountability report this next month. We feel that we have been wise stewards with what has been given and the Lord has blessed Craig and I both with a love for being cheap....I mean, frugal. Thank you so much to everyone who has prayed for us, supported our family and the work we are doing down here financially, and for those who have visited. We are looking forward to having high speed internet in September (it comes with the new house) and being able to keep in touch with everyone better. We should also have a Florida phone number again at that time.



Steve, Maria, and her mom

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.

