

## Bible Distribution February



It all began with teaching about family devotion time while we were in one of the rural Indian villages. When we realized that none of these families had Bibles but that they DID have a huge passion to learn more about God, we knew what we had to do.

Thanks to so many of you who contributed to this project, we were able to distribute a beautiful, illustrated Bible in children's language (most of the adults can't read past an elementary level if at all) for EACH FAMILY in this village!

As we were explaining how to use the Bibles, etc. we realized that these precious folks don't even know things like the Bible has an Old & New Testament! They are really starting at level 1. You should have seen the looks on their faces as they admiringly stroked this beautiful shiny Bible that was now their very own! This is a treasure they will cherish.

One of our students will be returning to this community to continue teaching them about God's Word, how to use the Bible in their own homes and even will be teaching many of the women how to read! We look forward to continuing this Bible distribution in more communities as funding allows.

## Resurrection Eggs March



The indigenous churches in our area were so excited to receive this awesome teaching tool to use in their children's ministry to teach the story of Easter. This type of resource is something these churches have never imagined having for their own use. We have heard many reports of how this made such a difference in their services and in helping to disciple these precious children.

### Teaching session in Latacunga

We began teaching indigenous church leaders in a new district this month.

The people are so hungry to learn

how they can better reach the families in their communities. We've already heard from one pastor who left our training session re-inspired to build the church who has now grown their children's ministry to 80 kids!

*UPDATE: We have continued teaching the children's ministry leaders from these districts throughout the year. It is exciting to see all the growth they've experienced!*

## Dia del Niño May

Ecuador has a holiday called Children's Day. Every year, the ministry, FACES, hosts a special event to allow the children who normally work to experience a playful day free from work. Volunteers from local churches (upper class) take the place of the kids. They shine shoes and sell candy in the streets to earn the money that child needs for the day.

This year, we took over 100 children to have a day of fun at an amusement park. It was a wild and crazy day as we stuffed into a bus for 60 passengers but no one complained. They rode several rides and then we took the cable cars to the top of a volcano. Spike & Sparkle (our clown kids) entertained them with balloon animals and face painting.

We ended the day with a worship service with both the volunteers who worked that day and the children. It was a beautiful expression of how God's love breaks down the barriers between classes.



## Semisud Graduation June

On June 27, the auditorium at SEMISUD was filled beyond capacity to celebrate over 70 students who were graduating. We are especially proud of our students from the Transcultural Studies Program (the one Bobby directs) who graduated.

Jeanneth of Ecuador graduated with honors and also received the prestigious Missionary of the Year award. She served her four month practicum in Mozambique last year where she worked with a local church in a desperately poor community in benevolence outreach ministries. Her heart and passion is to return to this community and pour out God's love in visible and tangible ways for the remainder of her life. Please pray for her as she tries to raise her support to return.

A couple from Guatemala graduated with honors as well. They have studied and worked hard in preparation for their future work with the Muslims in Istanbul, Turkey. They have answered the call to go and labor for Jesus in one of the hardest mission fields imaginable. Please pray for God's grace and mercy to be with them and their ministry as they go into the enemy's territory to proclaim the lovely name of Jesus to those who have never heard the Gospel. *(Due to the dangerous work they face in their future, we chose not to publish their names.)*

Karina of Ecuador graduated and left immediately to return to Ethiopia. All I can say is that working with the women and children in a refugee camp Ethiopia "messed her up!" ... but in a good way. Her heart has burned with passion to return and continue her ministry "unto the least of these" ever since she returned to Ecuador. Praise God, she was able to raise her support in short order and will be serving the King of Kings in a place as close to hell as one can get on earth. Please pray for God's guidance and protection as she ministers to the women and children who have been displaced and who suffer violence, rape and other horrors on a daily basis.

## Children's Outreach in Saquisilí July

We were invited to lead a children's outreach service in a small rural community. This church has been around for 35 years and they have one of the most successful discipleship programs of any of the rural churches we've seen. There were approximately 120 children in attendance. They were so excited and engaged in every part of the service. This was a really great group of kids - eager to worship and learn more about God.

The kids loved the clowns and games and songs. Jaciel, one of the SEMISUD students who travels with us, taught an interactive lesson on the Fish & Loaves miracle. We were blessed by how intently the children were listening and soaking up the Word of God.

After the service, the community honored us with a special meal. They served us chicken soup, then a plate of potatoes with guinea pig, lamb and rabbit. To us, this meal seems hard to stomach, but they were giving us a royal feast in their terms. This was such a sacrifice for them to bless us so richly. We always feel awkward in these settings, because just outside our building, all the kids were sitting in the dirt eating just a bowl of soup while we were presented with this feast. We would so much rather give the food to them, but at the same time we would never want to offend these precious, generous people ... so ... we eat.



## Upcoming Projects that you can Sponsor...

### Reach One Billion More Souls for Christ



6 out of every 7 people do NOT know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Personally this breaks my heart ... and I think it breaks God's also.

The Billion Soul Network is committed to changing this statistic by trying to plant over 5 million new churches over the next few years, adding another one billion converts to the church. With the

passion and enthusiasm that the leaders of this effort have I think that they might just pull it off.

As we've shared with you before, Ecuador is evangelically starved. The current statistics place less than 5% of the population as evangelical Christians. But those of us laying claim to this mission field have decided it's time that these numbers change by the power and grace of God. During a recent meeting with 300 ministry leaders, we set a goal to plant 5000 new churches in Ecuador! I was asked to lead an initiative to use our students at SEMISUD in planting 50 new churches in Quito!

I am humbled to be asked to take on this project but I know that my God is more than able to make this happen. Planting churches is not easy or cheap ... but we know it can be done and will be done for the Glory of God.

I ask that you join with us in prayer as we set out to win Ecuador for Christ and also ask God how he would want you to be a part of this plan to plant these 50 new churches. **We estimate that \$500 per month for the first year is all that is needed to start each church.**

**To contribute to one of these or another specific project, please make a note on the enclosed donation envelope.**

#### Upcoming Travels

Please be in prayer for us as we travel during the last few months of this year. Most of you know, Bobby is working on his PhD at Fuller Seminary in California. He will be working on campus for the fall quarter and we will be traveling throughout the area to promote SEMISUD and our mission projects. We hope to see many of you at Christmas!

### Would you like to start a children's church in Ecuador?



With your help, churches can transform from having playtime with the children (or nothing at all for the kids) to truly teaching their children the Word of God in a way that the children can understand and apply to their lives.

Your gift will provide curriculum, materials, equipment and leadership training to a struggling church. You will help the ministry leaders become confident in their calling as teachers and know HOW to use these wonderful new materials to teach the Word of God.

By partnering with a church, you are helping to further the Gospel around the World. Our prayer is that we can find sponsors for 8 different churches - although there are many more churches in need.

**Please pray about this opportunity to impact the children of Ecuador and give them first-rate training and discipleship that will never leave them!**



September, 2009

After 1 year and 8 months of living in Ecuador, there is no doubt that THIS is the place where God has called us to shine His light! This past year has brought more trials and persecution than we've ever experienced in our lives before; but it is often during such times of persecution that God reveals His plan and purpose. This year God has brought great clarity to our role as missionaries here. God's work through us here in Ecuador is producing fruit and no onslaught from the enemy will stop us from being His vessels! Thank you for standing in the gap in prayer for us and providing the way spiritually and financially for us to do the work God has for us in Ecuador!

Many people often ask me, "What does your daily life look like?" This is a difficult question to answer because every week is different from the next. Below is a description of the 3 main areas in which we work.

SEMISUD is the Church of God seminary where Bobby is a professor and director of the missionary training program. This includes teaching and coordinating classes on missions, anthropology, world religions, church planting, etc. These classes prepare students from all over Latin America who have a passion to be missionaries in other cultures. As a family, we share in the spiritual formation of these students through many mentoring and nurturing opportunities while they are here studying and pursuing their callings.

Quichua is the general term for the various Indian tribes (or indigenous) in Ecuador. The Quichua are typically the poorest, least educated and hardest working people you will ever encounter. God has given us a passion to help train the indigenous churches. Typically, these church members are brand new to Christianity. Many have experienced rejection from their communities and families for becoming Christian. We are continually shocked by their limited Biblical knowledge or how they "do church" but their passion and how they are completely SOLD OUT for God inspires us to do more and greater things for God! We provide training seminars on themes such as how to have Sunday School, family devotions and other basics forms of discipleship.

The opportunities for working with the children here are endless. One ministry we consistently work with focuses on ministering to street children. These are children from ages 6 and up who work all day selling candy, shining shoes, etc. to help their families survive. We assist in sharing the Father's love with these children through lunches, tutoring and special events throughout the year. We also visit the rural communities where their families live and share the Gospel with their younger siblings and parents through health seminars, children's crusades, etc.

This life feels completely "normal" to us now and we often forget we're living in a foreign country ... but then we are jolted back to reality by experiencing such amazing adventures as eating guinea pig; getting lost in the mountains; nearly being conned by expert car thieves; having all the emblems, spare tire and license plates stolen off our truck; church on a mud floor with dogs running around; and of course, seeing all the little kids working all day. Even with all this, God has allowed Ecuador to feel like "home" to us. We are thankful for that!

Inside this newsletter are some stories we've published on our website throughout the previous months. If you have access to internet, please visit our site and send us your email address. We are able to publish many more updates online because it's FREE as opposed to mailing out newsletters.

We cherish each and every one of you who God has placed in our lives. Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry!

Blessings, Bobby, Tamitha, Jonathan & Jordan



Visit our website for more photos, videos and information [www.LoveGodServeOthers.com](http://www.LoveGodServeOthers.com)

Donate to our mission fund by: - Contributing online at [www.LoveGodServeOthers.com](http://www.LoveGodServeOthers.com)  
- Mailing a check to Harvest Mission Fund PO Box 2106 Anniston, AL 36202

All donations are tax deductible. Mission fund is managed by Harvest Church of God.

Church of God World Missions Project # 065-0825

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