

Ecuador 12/01/18

The trip here Friday was really enjoyable especially when I got bumped up to first class. That TV commercial that says “flying first class ruins coach forever”, it’s true! With the time change, I get into Salasaka about 11:30 pm now so with unpacking I was able to get to bed by about 12:30 am.

Pastor Jonathan called at 8 today and wanted me to go to a funeral with him at 10. I agreed not knowing if my truck would even start after sitting since I left in October. (The funeral was for the mother of one of the Deacons in his church.)

I will have to say that this is the first time I can remember that anything started when it was supposed to. It was very interesting seeing the difference in funeral styles between city folks and indigenous Ecuadorians.



We went from the funeral to the graveside and then to lunch.

Please be in prayer for Pastor Jonathan as he is dealing with several logistic problems involving the OCC boxes and the volunteers not stepping up, Panama has been of particular concern.

Tonight's discipleship began a study on Prophecy with the introduction and how God's predictions in scripture always come true; He knows all future events.

We studied exactly what a Prophet is and how God used them in the past to speak to the people for God. It was a good reminder for me to not get sidetracked with the things of this world. (Lamentations 3:37)



Pastor Jonathan is going to be translating this week for this study because Pastor Guillermo is in Texas now and will be visiting our church December 19.

I pray that you all have a great Lords Day tomorrow. The message for PIBA in Ambato will be from Luke 1:26-38. The gift God gave Mary and us and the gifts she gave God in the form of voluntary servanthood and obedience. (Luke 1:38)

That's all for now,

Guido



Ecuador 12/02/18

Today is Sunday and I went to Ambato to worship at PIBA.

The sermon was taken from Luke 1:26-38; how we should not let the celebration of Christ's birth be removed from Christmas. We need to remember the miraculous gift God gave to the world and that the only acceptable gift we can give Him on His Birthday is our obedience.

From church I went to lunch with Pastor Jonathan and his family; then to visit Pablo and Aurora. From there back to Salasaka to prepare for the evening service at Salasaka Baptist Church.

The sermon in Salasaka was taken from selected scriptures that dealt with how mature Christians can encourage new Christians in their transformation by not being hypocrites; setting a good example; confessing wrongs when they occur and developing Christian friendships with them. And how we need to encourage them to assemble regularly with fellow believers and stay in God's Word.

After the service we celebrated Communion and then the children did a short program.











We ended our time together with fellowship, bread, and tea.

I hope you had a wonderful Lord's Day also,

Guido

Ecuador 12/04/18

Yesterday and today were light work days. The best part of yesterday was the discipleship study on Prophecy where we had 26 in attendance. We studied ways that God showed His people what a true Prophet was and how to tell a false one. That generated a lot of questions concerning those who call themselves Prophets today.

Today, I met Jonathan in Ambato for breakfast. After meeting with Pastor Jonathan, Andy and I went to lunch and then back to Salasaka. Andy is the brother-in-law of Pastor Jonathan and works with Samaritan's Purse. He will be translating some for me this week.

In Salasaka, Patricio and Mercedes wanted us to go and visit a friend of theirs from the Galapagos named Pedro. I had met with him last year and he remembered me giving him the Gospel but wanted to hear it again. So, I did and spent an hour and a half going through scripture letting him read and discuss what he was reading. In the end he thanked us and said he would think about what he had read. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to draw him to Christ, he knows the consequences of rejecting the Holy Spirit.







From there we went to another friend's house named Miriam. She is the one who had a tumor removed several months ago and is now going through chemo. She is still making excuses for not attending any church and not reading her Bible. She says she is confused by all the different religions and doesn't know which bible to read. She still thinks that since she went to Banos and prayed before the holy mother her life was spared.

We spent a long time explaining her misguided cause and effect. Please pray for her that she will come to the realization that only the One true God can heal her and only Christ can save her. She has a combination of Jehovah Witness, Catholicism and who knows what else in her background. Only God can make her way straight and end her confusion through the reading of His Word.



Andy sharing the Gospel with Miriam.

From there we went to the study at the Church. There were 24 in attendance. Tonight's study covered why Prophecy is important; it warns unbelievers, it comforts believers, it proves that God's Word is true, it reveals the worlds true problems, it helps us understand what's next, it increases our understanding of the Bible, it helps us understand God's will, it helps believers walk with God, it stimulates us to live righteously and it helps us to help others.

That's all for today,

Guido



Ecuador 12/05/18

Today started with me going to Ambato to drop of my laundry and then back to Salasaka to meet up with Pablo and Andy. We had an appointment with Milton and Gloria for a Bible study at 10am.



The study was on Psalms 1. After the study I reminded them of our last conversation concerning their living together and not being married.

They both said they had been praying about that and have started the legal process to assure each other's assets go to their children if anything happens in the future.

They have agreed to get married as soon as the lawyer finishes the paperwork. We prayed for them and their children and went to lunch.



After lunch we went Chiquicha to visit with Mauricio and Daniella. While there, Daniella wanted to talk about a church wedding and Mauricio wanted to talk about child dedication. I explained why we dedicate our children versus Baptizing them.

As the discussion went on, I asked Daniella if she had ever participated in Believers Baptism. She said no but she has been wanting to know more about its meaning. I explained the obedience and symbolic significance of Believers Baptism and the process. She said she wanted to be Baptized. Then Mauricio said he wanted to dedicate his son.

I told them both that when they decided on a date, they could have a baby dedication, Baptism and then a Church wedding all on the same day. They laughed but said after the first of the year they would do all three.

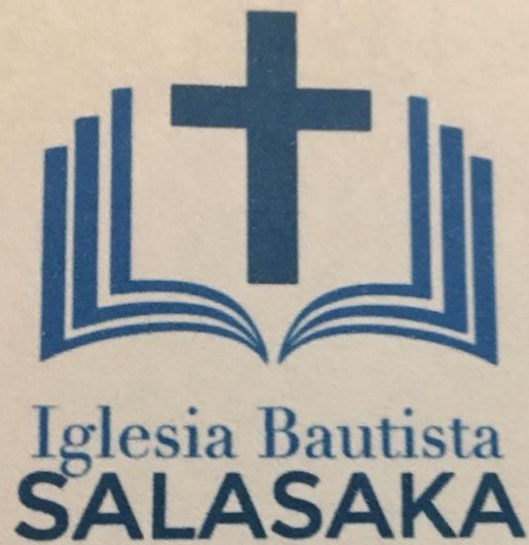




Mauricio and Pablo above.

We prayed for their decisions of obedience and their family and then left for Salasaka.

In Salasaka we needed to prepare a letter for Pablo on Church letterhead so Andy developed a letterhead for the church. (Below)



After that Andy and Pablo left and I went to SBC to the discipleship training. Tonight, Pastor Jonathan translated for me and the study was a continuation of what we can expect in the end times according to God's Word.

We can expect wars, poverty, disease, death, decay, perilous times, and man's sinfulness to increase. (2 Tim. 3:2-4) But God will have the last laugh (Psalms 2:4, 37:12-13 and Proverbs 1:24-28)

For those who know Christ, Prophecy removes the uncertainty of what is to come.

Today was a good day,

Guido



Ecuador 12/06/18

Today I went to Ambato and picked up my laundry and then Andy and I went to Pablo's for a Bible study and to have lunch.

Pablo, one of the three Deacons, wanted to talk about the responsibilities the deacons have to the congregation and to the Pastor; how they should all serve each other as the Church grows. In particular, how to come together when making decisions.

We discussed the process of the Pastor meeting with the Deacons, praying and coming to a consensus before bringing things to the church for a vote.

Since pastor Guillermo is not here, we will have to meet with him and the deacons next trip to reestablish and clarify the process for bringing things before the church for a vote.

From Pablo's we went to Pelileo to the bank, the license plate place and the Department of Licensing so Pablo could take care of some business.

From there we drove to the training in Salasaka. There were 28 in the training tonight with the Prophecy study being on the Rapture of His Church. We used the example of Enoch in Genesis 5:21-24 to illustrate what the Rapture will be like. (The snatching away of believers) (1 Thes. 4:16-17)

Well this report is short but the day was long.

Guido



Celebrating the "Captain" Festival in Salasaka...













Ecuador by day...



Salasaka by night...