

Ecuador 07/07/18

It was good to be heading back to Ecuador this month. The only difference was that Wenda was with me and that made the trip to Quito seem shorter. We arrived in Salasaka around 11 pm last night and were unpacked and in bed by midnight.

The sleep was short lived. I had anticipated the possibility of the truck not starting because it had not been started for over 7 weeks so I brought a set of jumper cables. Knowing that we had to be in Ambato at 10:30 this morning, I was up at 6:00 am. It was 49 degrees and raining. The truck was garaged a block away and sure enough, the battery was deader than dead. I broke out the old jumper cables, hooked them up and waited for someone to come by but to no avail. I finally called Pablo and he came and helped me out. (Pastor Guillermo is out of town this week.)

Wenda and I arrived at Pastor Jonathan's office at 10:30 and started making copies of the study on "Christian Living" that we were going to do with the people at PIBA.



PIBA had prepared lunch and the study was to start at 1:00, Ecuador time. After eating, singing and praying we started the lesson around 2 pm.



Patty, Yvonne's sister, translated for us this trip as well as Pastor Jonathan.

The study was on the fact that the Christian life is Christ living in us! Living a Spirit Filled Life, Walking in the Spirit, Growing in the Lord, and Obeying Christ's Commandments.

There were around 35 in attendance.



The study ended around 5:30 and from there we were invited to go out to dinner with David and Anita, a young Christian couple who are making plans for their future together. David is part of the praise and worship team at PIBA and has helped, from time to time, with translation during the studies.



We had a nice visit and a good day with the people from PIBA.

Tomorrow Wenda and I will be back at PIBA for both services and I will be sharing a message on missions.

Tomorrow night we will be at Salasaka Baptist Church. Pastor Jonathan will translate for me as I share a message on our need to disciple new Christians. If someone accepts Christ that is just the beginning of your journey with them.

I guess that's all for today.

Blessings,

Guido

7/8/18

Today was an early start with the walk to get the truck but thankful it wasn't raining. We had a 30-minute drive to Ambato for the service at PIBA. The early service begins at 8:00 so we arrived at 8:30 knowing it would actually begin at 9:00!

The message was on Missions and the fact that every believer is commanded to make disciples. This is our mandate...an endeavor that starts with the heart! God had planned that this morning's message would also be heard by a group of young people on a mission trip from Kentucky! The pastor and his wife brought a group of young people from their church in Kentucky and have been staying in Chacauco. This morning they loaded up the bus with their group as well as other young people from around the US who are working at camp Chacauco which is about an hour from Ambato. We had a chance to visit with some of them between services.



After the early service Pastor Jonathan arranged for us to have breakfast at the church before the second service began. I guess he wanted to make sure we had the stamina for the day ahead!

The second service was well attended even though some families were out of town on summer vacation.



Pastor Jonathan will continue to instruct his congregation on missions using every opportunity to put into practice what they have heard.

After spending time visiting with friends at PIBA we joined Pastor Jonathan, his family, and Juan, a member of the praise and worship team, for lunch. We drove to the Mall but once inside realized that half the city of Ambato had the same idea (to eat lunch at the Mall) so we drove across the street to a nice, quiet restaurant and enjoyed good food and fellowship.

We had enough time after lunch to spend a couple of hours in preparation for the Sunday service at Salasaka Baptist Church.

Pastor Jonathan arrived at the church to translate.



Once again Pastor Guido gave the message in English, Pastor Jonathan translated the English to Spanish, and Patricio translated the Spanish to Quechua! God was worshipped and the people were blessed. The picture sent of the two little ladies are the ladies that speak only Quechua.



Tonight's message was about the importance to "follow-up" with recent converts. Providing ways for them to grow in the faith such as bible study, prayer, and church attendance. The idea of multiplying was stressed. A mature believer discipled a new believer until the new believer is mature enough to share and disciple a new believer and so it multiplies.

After the message we observed the Lord's Supper, sang a song, and had a time of fellowship while sharing a meal of bread and tea. Finally, at almost 10 pm, Pablo told the people it was time to leave. It was a good time to be together and no one seemed to want to leave but we will meet again tomorrow night to resume our bible studies.

After taking Pastor Jonathan home, locking the truck in the garage and walking around the block to get to my room by 11:00 pm I can say it has been a full day and a blessed day to spend it with God's people.

Blessings,

Guido



7-9-18

Today started with the continuation of the VISA saga! I met Pastor Jonathan in Ambato for a last attempt to submit the required papers I started working on 3 months ago. As Pastor Jonathan likes to say, "Long story short!" Wrong paperwork, the laws have changed (again), I didn't get the VISA but as it turns out I didn't need the VISA. So, after all the time, money, and waiting in line at the immigration office with illegal refugee women from Venezuela I'm good.

After spending most of the day in Ambato with immigration and then getting some cleaning supplies we made it back in time to get ready for the studies.

The ladies started their study tonight on the Christian Life beginning with the question, "What is spiritual life?" They also discussed, "Walking in the Spirit" and "Grieving the Holy Spirit." It is always encouraging to see how the ladies are growing in the scriptures. After the study we spent time in prayer. The main prayer request for both the younger and older ladies was for wisdom and spiritual growth! There were 23 ladies in attendance tonight. I was so excited about our time together I forgot to stop and take a picture of everyone – hopefully tomorrow night I'll remember. WT

The men continued their study in Proverbs with Pastor Jonathan translating since Guillermo is out of town. There were 11 men attending the Proverbs study. The topic was on our words and how they effect our relationships. The men had a lot of questions about the meaning of flattery and rebuke so much of the discussion was taken up with examples.

Tomorrow we plan to visit several different church members during the day and then resuming our studies in the evening.

Blessings,

Guido

7-10-18

Tuesday morning, we set a time to meet with Nelly at her bakery. We were running a little late (Ecuadorian time) but she apparently was on Americana time and had already left after waiting 30 minutes for us to get there! We resisted all the bread temptations that had just come out of the oven while visiting with her daughter, Karen.

Karen is a new Christian, like her mom, but is wanting more Bible learning than what she does on her own. She wants to go to the seminary in Chacauco. Please pray for her future as she has such a heart for God and is very bright.

From the bakery in Salasaka, we drove to Chiquicha to visit with Mauricio, his wife Daniela, and son Michael Jesus.



Mauricio has quite a testimony of God delivering him from alcohol and is not afraid to share his testimony with family and past friends. His brother Robert Paul is ruining his life with alcohol and ignores Mauricio's pleading to turn his life to God. Please pray for Robert Paul's salvation.

Like many in the mountain area, Mauricio attends church as often as he can but is hoping to buy a car one day so he can come on a regular basis.

Pastor Jonathan, who was translating, did not realize how far Mauricio and Daniela have to travel to attend church. They often come to PIBA in the morning. Salasaka's services are in the evening and coming at night is more difficult from where he lives unless he has a car. He thanked God for sending the pastors to help teach him God's Word little by little.



After sharing a meal together, we drove to the other side of the mountain to La Florida for a visit with Pablo and Aurora, and yes, another meal. It is heartwarming to see the spiritual growth in each believer as we visit and talk together!

From Pablo's we drove back to Salasaka to see if Nelly had returned but we had missed her again. With not much time remaining before our studies were to begin we said good bye to Pastor Jonathan who was leaving in the morning for Panama.



Leaving Chiquicha driving to La Florida.

The men continued their study in Proverbs and how we use our words. Roberto, from Ambato was the translator. This was the first time we met him. When asked if he was a Christian his response was very uncertain. Guy told him that you either are a Christian or you aren't. Roberto responded by saying, "Well, I am searching." Please be in prayer for Roberto as he attends the men's studies and provides the translation. It will not be the first time a translator has come to saving faith while translating the Word of God!

The ladies continued their study on the Christian life looking at how we should be "Growing in the Lord" as we are told in 2 Peter 3:18; *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen*

Blessings,

Guido and Wenda



7-11-18

The morning began with a trip to Ambato to drop off the laundry. I stayed behind to help Amy, Soila and Dario's daughter, with a short story in English that she has to read and record. Elvia was coming also to help with any translation that might be needed. Well, Amy didn't show so Elvia and I had a good visit. We mainly discussed the cultural differences here when it comes to dating and how the situation with Klever and Pamela is causing a division between families.

Please remember Pastor Guillermo and his family and Pablo and his family to have wisdom and discernment and humility.

After our 2-hour visit, Guy and I decided to enjoy the sunshine and go for a drive.



Before the ladies' study, Amy came and we had some time to go over her story but definitely needs more practice. The women's study continued on Christian Living with the topic focusing on "Confessing Sin." We had 30 in attendance. I tried to get a picture and may have cut a couple off. The only male in the room is Ricardo. He came at the end when we were taking prayer requests. He is standing beside his sister, Karen. She asked prayer for his salvation.



After the study Soila wanted us to meet with her and her family. Pastor Guido and I will meet them at 9:30 in the morning. Then Nelly, the baker, needed to talk about a situation with her business landlord. Her landlord is a member of SBC, a Christian who is not acting like a Christian!! Please pray that God would work in the hearts of His people to act like children of God!

The men continued their study in Proverbs with 9 in attendance. The discussion was about the type of son that parents can be proud of and the son that brings disgrace to the parents. Also linking the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment in the lesson.

After everything was said and done we got back to our room a little after 10:00 pm. Tomorrow night after the study we will go visit Edwin and Gladys, members of SBC. Edwin has throat cancer and the cancer has now spread. They were both saved a couple years ago and after being saved they were convicted to get married. They have been trying to save enough money to get married but now his health is failing and he is no longer working. Please pray for them.

Thank you in advance for all your prayers!

Blessings

7-12-18

This morning we drove to pick up Elvia at her house. Her 1969 VW Bug died last night while she was in Ambato. She was able to get in touch with Pablo who towed her car home for her.

We brought Elvia back with us so she could translate our meeting that Soila had requested last night. We met with Soila and her daughter Amy. Dario was a no show. Soila needed to talk to someone because she was so angry with Dario and Amy. When she came home Monday from working in the market they were sleeping so she took a belt to them. I wasn't sure if I should laugh or pat her on the back or what!!

Unfortunately, her husband is a lazy man and everyone in the community knows this about him. That is his reputation. Pastor Guillermo has had many conversations but nothing has changed. In fact, Soila said he hasn't changed in 18 years! He refuses to work and provide for his family. Pastor Guido's words of wisdom were that she let him cook his own meals with the money he makes, wash his own clothes, and make his own bed...

The church members stand and share scripture that they have memorized each Sunday evening. Dario's verse for next Sunday will be **1 Timothy 5:8**, *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.* Please pray for Pastor Guillermo and the deacons as they plan to meet with him next week.

After our meeting, we drove to Ambato to pick up laundry, have lunch, drop Elvia off at the University and restock our water supply.

We got back to our room in Salasaka around 1:15 and I met with Amy at 2:00. She had a short-story in English to read, then record it and submit it to her teacher. It took her an hour to get through the "short" story, then another hour to record it. We then looked at another assignment she had – past-perfect tense sentences!



Three hours later we had just enough time to have some mixed nuts for dinner and get ready for the last night of studies. The women's study had over 30 in attendance and we were able to finish the workbook on Christian Living ending with how obedience to God's commands shows our love for Christ and that we are really saved.

There were 12 men in the Proverbs study this included Bryan, who is the 15-year-old son of Gladys and Edwin. The study continued to focus on the difference between a wise son and a foolish son. The lesson was very applicable to Bryan who had left last week with some of his friends and gone to Quito. His mother had been looking for him for over a week.

It was especially stressful for the family since Edwin's throat cancer has spread to his lungs. Gladys not only has her husband to care for but now her son. The police found him in Quito and returned him to his mother and she dropped him off at the church tonight at the men's study. During the study he was asked to read many scriptures that had to do with a foolish son.

During the study Patricio advised him in very strong terms that he was exhibiting all the qualities of a fool as described in Proverbs.

After the study Guido, Elvia, Bryan, Gladys and I drove to Edwin and Gladys's home to visit and pray with Edwin. Below one daughter is asleep, another behind Edwin, Bryan to the right.



Gladys has decided with everything that is going on with Edwin and Bryan's bad behavior that Bryan will be taken to Puyo, about 4 hours away, to a boy's detention/reform school. She will get the papers tomorrow. Please pray for Edwin and the family. Edwin is not able to attend church but said his faith is strong though his body is weak. He will go to Quito August 7<sup>th</sup> for treatment and will not be able to be around his family for one month.

Time has gone so quickly. It is hard to believe we leave tomorrow around midnight. We have a full day tomorrow before we leave for Quito please pray as we meet with Teresa's brother who is not a Christian as we hope to share the Gospel with him.

Blessings,

Guido and Wenda

7-13-18

This morning we spent time packing for our trip home.

Elvia visited for an hour or so then went with me to take a gift to Karen and her little sister. I also wanted to see her mom, Nelly, but only Karen was at the bakery working so we had a short visit and said our good-byes. Elvia also left to take the bus to the University in Ambato.

As I mentioned in Thursday's report, our plan today was to visit Teresa's brother and sister-in-law at Teresa's request. Robert, who has been translating for the men's training wanted to be involved in this meeting so much that he got the day off work and met us at 12:45. We then drove to pick up Pablo, who is a deacon at SBC and lives in the La Florida area, same as Teresa and her brother.



Driving to Teresa's house.

We finally made it to Teresa's house at 1:00 pm and met her brother, Manuel and sister-in-law Nancy. As it turns out Manuel is in serious trouble and wanted prayer for what he says is a false accusation. Pastor Guido explained to him that God hears the prayers of the saints and Jesus is at the right hand of the Father interceding on behalf of the saints but because he is not a believer his prayer to help him in the trouble will not be heard.

Pastor Guido then shared the Gospel with Nancy and Manuel looking at what the scripture has to say about man, sin, the need for forgiveness and Jesus who died for our sin and rose from the dead. Also, what happens to those who refuse to believe with their heart and confess with their mouth Jesus as Lord and Savior. Nancy and Manuel read the scripture for themselves aloud. Teresa, Pablo, Robert, and Katty (Teresa's daughter) were all present.



Nancy, Katty, Manuel, Teresa.

After two and a half hours of sharing the Word of God and asking them questions to make sure they understood, Pastor Guido asked Nancy, "Now that you have heard the Gospel what do you want to do?" With many tears she said she had heard some of this before but ignored how her heart felt but she did not want to ignore it this time and wanted to be saved. We prayed with her and she confessed her sin and put her trust in Jesus Christ to save her.

Manuel was asked what his response was as well and that he should not do something just because his wife has but only if he has a true belief in Jesus to save him. This was a personal decision that only he can make. He said after hearing everything he has a peace in his heart he has not felt before and that he said he also wanted to receive Jesus as his Savior. Pablo then prayed with Manuel with him.

Pastor Guido explained to them that the next step of obedience is water baptism and what baptism means. They said they understood that their infant baptism in the Catholic church was not the baptism Jesus commands but that immersion after belief in Jesus is the next step of obedience. Pablo will begin a bible study with them Monday and continue the discussion of obedience and baptism.

After many tears and hugs we enjoyed a meal that Teresa had prepared for us all.





Teresa hugging her brother, Manuel above, Katty hugging her aunt, Nancy below.





Three hours later we said our good-byes and prepared to leave but a cow was blocking the narrow dirt road (as you can see in the picture above).

Robert, going above and beyond that of a translator, jump out of the truck and grabbed the rope around the cow's neck and pulled it off the road. However, he failed to notice the cow pie until after he stepped in it!



Above is a picture of the cow and then Robert behind the truck trying to get his shoes cleaned. This from a young man who has never been to this part of Ecuador and said he had never been around a cow – this was his first.

Robert, if you'll remember from his introduction, said he was "searching" but this was the most exciting thing he said he had ever witnessed and said he wants to go to church every Sunday now. He also looks forward to helping translate anytime a team comes in the future.

Please remember to pray for Robert, Manuel, and Nancy.



We drove Pablo home, dropped Robert off in Salasaka to catch the bus to Ambato and Guido had just enough time to get the truck washed. I started to the room but Soilita grabbed me to come to the Market with her. She wanted to give me a scarf and to tell me that Amy was working in the Market and she was going to go to her house! Remember, Amy has been very lazy and hasn't been helping her mother. Soilita was very happy.

At the Market, Amy gave me a hug and wanted me to know she passed her English reading exam – the one we worked on for several hours!

As I said it was a full day. Pablo drove us to the airport. Nelly rode with him to help him stay awake and to help translate. We had a lovely "Red-Eye" flight but no delays or problems. We arrived home around 12:30 pm.

We thank God for all that He allowed us to participate in! Hope to see you in church tomorrow!

Blessings,

Guido and Wenda



Soilita, Wenda and Amy selfie.