

Ecuador 10/06/18

The trip was uneventful and once in Ambato the trip to Salasaka was also. Traffic was light for some reason so I was in Salasaka by 11pm, unpacked and in bed by Midnight. While unpacking I found a small package that I thought was for someone here in Ecuador. I received it the day I left and didn't open it so I was pleasantly surprised when I remembered it was mine. It brightens up my room.



Today started with a trip to the bank to get enough money to pay the tax on the truck. It's time to renew the plates so the taxes have to be paid before you can get a number to stand in line next Tuesday to get a date and time on Wednesday to have the inspection done. It's a two to three-day process here.

After the bank I went to Ambato to meet with Pastor Jonathan for lunch. He has requested prayer for an effort Samaritan's Purse is attempting in Colombia. They are preparing basic food boxes for the refugees coming across from Venezuela as well as sharing the Gospel and OCC boxes.

After lunch I met with Pastor Guillermo to plan the service for SBC tomorrow night. The sermon is going to be on the topic of "Examples Worth Following", 1 Cor. 11:1.

Tonight's discipleship training was from Proverbs and what it has to say about drinking alcoholic beverages. There were 21 of us in attendance.

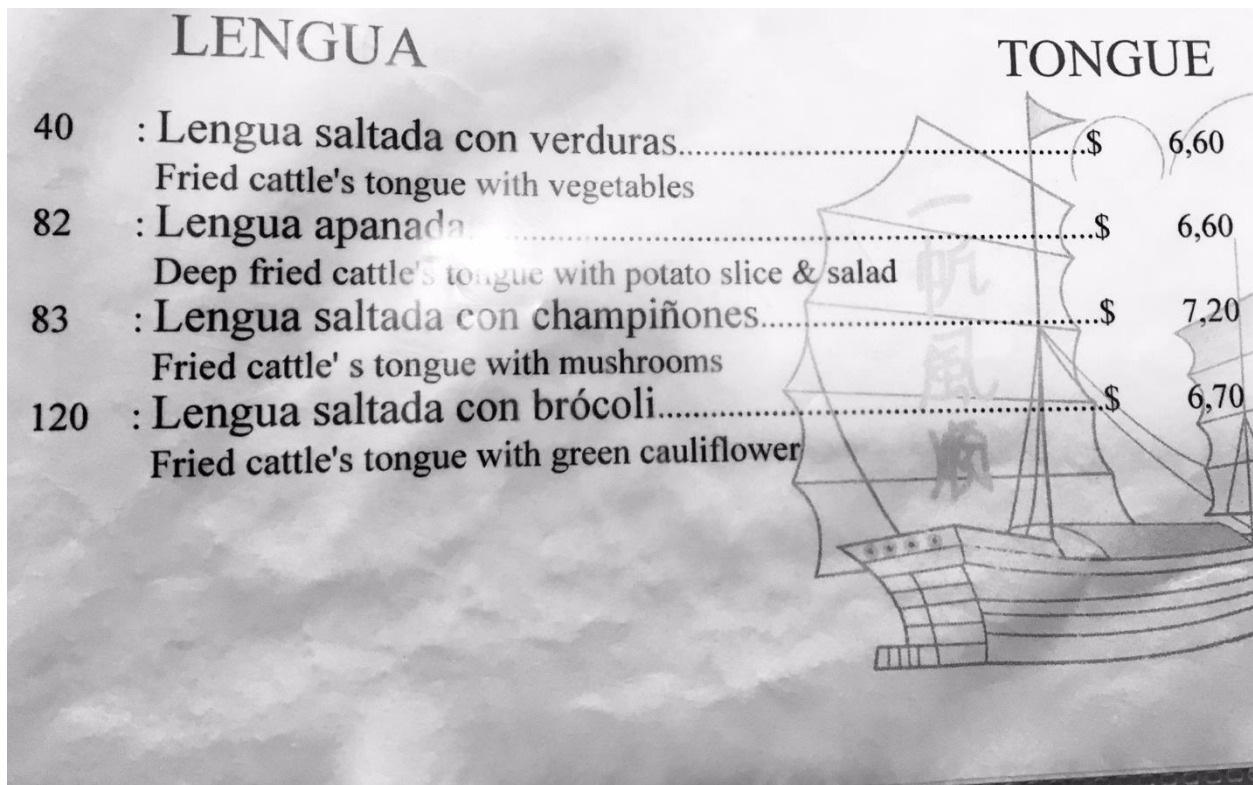
Well that's all I can remember for today. Have a wonderful Lord's Day tomorrow.  
Guido

Ecuador 10/07/18

I trust everyone had a good time of worshiping the Lord today. What a wonderful way to start the week.

It was good to be able to attend the service at First Baptist Church in Ambato (PIBA) when Pastor Jonathan preached on Christians being salt and light and what legacy are we going to leave when we die. Are we going to be remembered for our worldly achievements or as a person who walked with God? He went on to ask whether we really trust in God or are we trusting in the flesh? (Proverbs 3:5-6) & (2 Chronicles 32:7-8)

After church I went to lunch with Jonathan's family and had a bowl of chicken & noodles. There were some interesting items on the menu one of which was fried cow tongue. Item #120 sounded much better than item #83 but since I couldn't decide I chose the soup.



LENGUA		TONGUE	
40	: Lengua saltada con verduras..... Fried cattle's tongue with vegetables	\$	6,60
82	: Lengua apanada..... Deep fried cattle's tongue with potato slice & salad	\$	6,60
83	: Lengua saltada con champiñones..... Fried cattle' s tongue with mushrooms	\$	7,20
120	: Lengua saltada con brócoli..... Fried cattle's tongue with green cauliflower	\$	6,70

After lunch I went back to Salasaka to prepare for the service at SBC.

The sermon tonight was on the topic of who is the example in our life that we follow. Is it someone you know? Is it the Apostle Paul or is it Christ?

Are we setting an example to unbelievers that would cause them to take notice and want to know "The Hope That Is Within Us"? (Tit. 2:7-8, 1 Pet. 2:12)

Is our example helping church growth, is it worthy of emulation? (1 Tim. 4:12)

After the sermon we continued the worship service with the Lord's Supper followed by a time of fellowship, bread and tea. There were 30 adults and 15 children in the service tonight.

That pretty much sums up the day the Lord gave me,

Guido

Salasaka 10/08/18

This morning I received a number so I can stand in line tomorrow to get my appointment for my truck inspection. I have to be in line at 8:43 am, which is a pretty precise time for this culture, and I'll be there.

Pablo called and wanted us to go and visit two friends of his, Gloria and Milton. He said they are having marital problems and had asked that we come to visit.

When I asked how we could help them they started out by telling me about their physical problems. Gloria has pain in her jaw and shoulder and Milton has a problem with excess stomach acid.

Gloria said she is depressed a lot and feels alone even though Milton is in the house. I asked Milton if they were Christian and did they have a church family. He said they were Christian and attended a Christian Church in Ambato.

I asked how often and they said every Sunday. After listening for a while to their physical complaints and complaints about each other I sensed they were not married and ask them if they were.

They said no that they had been living together for 2 years.

I told them that I sensed as much and that what they are experiencing is the consequences of sin. They can't claim to be Christians and willfully sin. God will not bless this and satan will love it.

I told them that they are two individuals living under one roof in sin so they are not living as God planned in Gen. 2:24. They are not one flesh receiving the blessings from God. I told them that now, today, was the time to be honest with each other and I asked Milton if he loved Gloria to the point he would live with her the rest of his life. He said he did and would. I asked Gloria the same question and she, in tears, answered that she does love Milton and wants to be with him until she dies.

I told them that as professing Christians they should want to be obedient and live lives as Christ would want them to live and as is taught in His Word. Living together is not being obedient and

is contrary to His teachings in His Word. God will not bless living in sin. As a matter of fact, He may be withholding blessings that you can't experience because you're not married.

I told them that I suspect a lot of the physical problems and personal problems they are experiencing is due to disobedience and advised them that if they truly love one other and want to spend the rest of their lives together then repent and do things God's way, become one flesh. They both agreed that that's what they should do.

Please pray for them that they will be obedient and live together as God instituted, as husband and wife.



From there Pablo, Pastor Guillermo and I went to lunch and then to pick up Mercedes. She wanted us to go and visit a 33-year-old lady named Mirin who is recouping from a tumor removal in her abdomen. It was cancerous and she has finished her chemo.

We visited with her for about 2 hours and shared the Gospel. She informed us that she had a dream that she should pray to Mary, she did and now she's being healed. That started a whole new conversation but she is Catholic and doesn't read God's Word. All we can do and did is pray that God will give her understanding and reveal the truth found in His Word.





After leaving Mirin's I went to my room to get ready for the training in Proverbs tonight. We continued in Proverbs and finished studying what it had to say concerning the consumption of alcohol. (The condemnation is not so much the use but the abuse and the sin that it can lead to.)

Well that's all for today,

Guido

Ecuador 10/9&10/18

It's been a couple of days since I sent a report so today I will fill in the gaps in reports. In the report Monday I mentioned I had a number for Tuesday to stand in line and get an appointment to have my truck inspected. My number was 26 so I got there about 30 minutes early, 8:15. At about 9:30 when I got to the window with my paperwork I was notified that I had two more taxes to pay and needed to come back with the receipts. One tax was to the city of Pelileo and the other to the Province. The problem is that the taxes have to be paid in specific banks so that took time.

When I returned with the receipts I had to wait until about 1:30 to be seen again. Then I was told that since I had a new Passport I needed to have the number changed in the system and that could only be done at the tax office in Ambato. Once there I was told that it had to be done at the main police station in Ambato. But if they couldn't change the number then to come back and they would see what could be done!! I drove to the main Police Station in Ambato, stood in line there for 2 hrs. to be told that their computers were down and I would need to come back Wednesday, it's now 4:30. Lol

At that point I called Evonne, Pastor Jonathan's wife. Jonathan told me Sunday that if I had any trouble to call Evonne because her cousin is a supervisor and works in the vehicle inspections department. Evonne called her Cousin and she told me to be back in Ambato at 8 am on Wednesday and she would help.

I was there at 7:45 today and at 8:30 I got to see the gentleman who supposedly could update the Passport. He entered all the information in the system and told me that I should be OK to go back to Pelileo and get the inspection.

When I got back to Pelileo the system had not been updated so I had to see a Supervisor there. He was very nice and he updated my Passport into the system.

Upon leaving his office I asked him why the lady yesterday sent me to the tax office in Ambato when he could have done it yesterday? He just shrugged his shoulders 😊

Upon leaving the police department Louise, Sergio's son-in-law, stopped us to talk. Louise and Janette are the ones whose toddler drowned more than 3 years ago. They are visiting from the Galapagos for a week.



At about 10:30 I had finished everything and went back to Salasaka. The only good thing about yesterday (as it seems to me) was last night when we had a good time in the discipleship training.

There were 23 there and we were studying what Proverbs has to say about Love being about giving and concern for others while Lust is about getting and concern for one's self.

After lunch, Guillermo and I went to Ambato to visit Stephanie, America's niece. She is 13 and, on her birthday, yesterday, she was riding on a motorcycle, crashed and crushed her leg. She was transported to the hospital and operated on today. But as things go we got there too late, visiting hours were 1-2 pm.

So, for the past two days it has been a test of patience with not much accomplished for the Lord...

Tonight, there were 25 in the training and we continued in Proverbs on God's plan for men and women. Also Matt. 19:3-8, Deut. 22:5 & Heb. 13:4. We had a good night with lots of participation and questions.

Tomorrow is laundry day and a Bible study at Pablo's.

Blessings,

Guido



Laundry day in Salasaka above.



Ecuador 10/11/18

This morning I went to Ambato to take the laundry to be washed. From there I picked Pastor Guillermo up in Salasaka and went to Manuel and Nancy's in La Florida. They mentioned last night, after training, that they would like to meet at 10 today to discuss a problem they are having with a neighbor.

Apparently about 6 months ago Manuel was accused of patting a 7-year boy on the behind. Well, he told his mother, who has been in heated arguments with Nancy in the past over all kinds of stuff. The mother filed a police report and spread the rumor through the neighborhood that Manuel is a child molester.

Manuel has a lawyer but it's a big mess. They are depressed and understandably upset. I told them that as Christians we can rest in Him (Matt. 11:28-30). As Christians we don't need to worry because He is omniscient. (John 14:27). And as Christians we will have tribulations but He is omnipotent. (John 16:33).

We prayed together and they appeared to feel much better about what they are going through. Please pray for peace in this situation and that the truth would be revealed. After we prayed Nancy wanted us to have lunch with them.



From there we went to Pablo's to have a Bible study and another lunch.





The study was taken from James 1:19-27. Aurora, Pablo, Diego and Javier were in the study. After the study Aurora served another lunch.



After the study we went to Salasaka to visit Nelly and Karen at the bakery. They wanted us to meet Nelly's sister and she wants us to visit her and her husband tomorrow at 2:30 pm.

From there I went to the discipleship training which was on what Proverbs and Hebrews 13:4 has to say about marriage, fornication and adultery. (Especially applicable to the lives of the people here.)

I guess that's all for today,

Guido

Ecuador 10/12 - 10/13/18

Yesterday I picked up my laundry in Ambato and then went to visit with Nelly's sister and her sister's husband at the bakery in Sslasaka. I met with Nelson, Carmen and their sons Deysler and Naysler.



Apparently, Nelson was raised in the Catholic church but 13 years ago he was reading his Bible and realized the church was teaching things contrary to God's Word. From then until now he has been involved in several different religions such as the Jehovah Witness and a Pentecostal Church.

He said the Pentecostal church was beautiful at first but after a while he realized they were discriminatory in who they accepted based on "their perceived spirituality."

He said now he is looking for a church which teaches the Bible to take his children to. I asked Nelson if he believed in Heaven and Hell? He said he did so I asked him if he died tonight where would he spend eternity? He said he wasn't quite sure but he is trying to live a good life and hopes he will be in Heaven.



I asked Carmen the same question and she said “when you die you die.” I told her that at least her husband knew the truth about the existence of Heaven and Hell. I explained that there is an eternity that our souls will experience and where we experience this eternity will depend on whether we have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ or not.

I then went through the Gospel Message with them. (Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:23, John 3:3, John 3:16, Acts 4:12, Rom. 10:9-13, 1 John 1:8-9, 2 Cor. 5:15-17, Rev. 3:20 and 2 Cor. 6:1-2).

Pastor Guillermo and I invited them to attend the SBC and I encouraged them to pray and to make a decision because God had not promised another day. Please pray for this family to come to Christ.

The afternoon was uneventful so the next event was the discipleship training. We finished the study in Proverbs on the consequences of deviating from God’s sexual standards.

During the day today I’m packing, getting the truck cleaned and buying groceries for tonight’s meeting.

We will meet for an hour and a half just to discuss how to apply the training we received to our lives and share a sandwich and coffee.

I will be leaving Salasaka around 8 pm and arrive in Rocky Mount around 1 pm Sunday afternoon.

It has been a blessing seeing how God is working,

Guido