

# News from Middle Earth

Update from the Crouse family in Quito, Ecuador  
October 2016



## New Country

At the end of June, we made the big move from Tarma, Peru to Quito, Ecuador. The time since then has been dedicated to settling in. As we now are living only 12 miles south of the equator, we've chosen to call our newsletter "News from Middle Earth". Thanks to Pastor Mike Jones from Roberts Memorial FMC (Cattaraugus, NY) for his suggestion. (Yes,

Mike, your Ecuador t-shirt is on its way!) As we adapt to living in a new country, we've been adjusting to new challenges and embracing new opportunities.

## New Challenges

There are many similarities between where we lived in Peru and our new home in Ecuador: similar climate and altitude, food, language, and culture. Even though many things seem somewhat familiar, however, we are constantly reminded that we are in a new place. For example, some of the Spanish vocabulary is different. So we are learning to ask for a "funda" instead of a "bolsa" when we want a plastic bag and to say "mande?" instead of "perdón?" when we don't understand something (which happens frequently!)

We are also learning to navigate in a city that is much, much larger than the one we used to live in. Thankfully, we can now find our way around using all kinds of buses, trolleys, taxis, and of course our feet. We know where to pay to the bills and find the things we need. Navigating through legal bureaucracy has also been a challenge. But we are relieved that all the family has received residency visas that allow us to live legally in Ecuador for the next two years.



The rental townhouse God provided

## New Opportunities

Moving to a capital city also provides us with many new opportunities as a family. We are much closer to an airport to facilitate JR's need to travel more frequently as part of his role as Latin America field coordinator for short-term missions teams. We also have better access to needed medical care, and the girls are able to attend a quality Christian school where instruction is done in English.

JR and I are also exploring new opportunities for ministry. Soon after arriving, JR connected with a municipal program (Conquito) that offers training in urban agriculture and offers outlets in local parks to sell the organic produce that is grown on personal plots throughout the city. JR completed the 5-session accelerated training, and now is working with a small group at the "Luz y Vida" church in the Ferroviaria neighborhood in south Quito. The church owns a large empty lot that they would like to convert into an agriculturally productive unit that particularly benefits single moms. So far the group has cleared the brush, started a compost pile and constructed several raised beds for cultivating vegetables. Future plans include raising meat chickens and planting fruit crops.



Constructing a raised bed for vegetable gardening

I (Becky) will be visiting local kids' clubs that are sponsored through International Child Care Ministries to look at ways that I can be of service to their leaders. A workshop for training children's workers will be scheduled soon.

Thank you for your prayers that God will give grace to handle the new challenges as they come along and wisdom in choosing and following through with new opportunities. We are extremely thankful for your prayers and support during this time of transition!

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You can also send your gifts electronically at:

[give.fmcusa.org/crouse](http://give.fmcusa.org/crouse)

**Crouse family blog**

[perucrouses.blogspot.com/](http://perucrouses.blogspot.com/)

You can also follow us on Facebook through Becky's Facebook account which is under Becky Vinton Crouse.

**Latin America Area website**

[www.latinamericaarea.com](http://www.latinamericaarea.com)

Your partners in Latin America,

*Becky J.R. Marissa alma*

**Praises**

- The strength, diligence, and assistance necessary to finish well in Peru
- The provision of a home, furnishings, school, and residency documents
- Exciting new ministry opportunities for JR

**Prayer Requests**

- Grace and consolation as we continue to adjust to life in Ecuador and miss friends in Peru
- Wisdom and direction for ministry
- Safety in travel for JR as he accompanies a VISA missions team in Managua, Nicaragua Oct 9-13.



## Spotlight on Missions in Latin America

We are thrilled to share a story with you that, thankfully, is becoming a new reality . . . a new wave of Latin American missionaries crossing borders and cultures to reach other Latin Americans for Christ! Today we are privileged to tell you about an outstanding couple we hosted in our home in Peru earlier this year. David and Ginegda, currently youth ministers in one of the largest Free Methodist churches in Latin America, have sensed a clear missionary call on their lives and are now trusting God to put their "yes, we'll go" on the map!



Recently, the Peru mission district of the Free Methodist Church invited David and Ginegda and their children to come to Peru for 2 years to establish a training center for community church planting. This family has seen God work in spectacular and powerful ways in their home country and through over the border mission trips, and now God is opening a door for them to come alongside the church in Peru to help train new leaders and foster a new movement.

Even though the church is strong and growing in their home country, the current economy does not allow the church people to support them financially at much more than a symbolic level. We are part of an effort, therefore, to reach out to God's people in North America to seek support for David and

Ginegda, both in prayer and financially. We pray that you would like to be part of this story. If you would like to hear David and Ginegda's testimony and how God has brought them to this faith venture, please let us know and we'll gladly send that to you. If you would like to give toward the funds they will need to minister and live in Peru for two years, please click on the following link: [Lima Strategic Initiative Fund](#)