

News from Middle Earth

Update from the Crouse family in Quito, Ecuador
December 2016



"The Word took on flesh and became human and chose to live alongside us." John 1:14 (The Voice)

At this time of year, we're so thankful for the reminder that Jesus came to live alongside us and make his home with us. As we settle into our new home in Quito, we have looked for opportunities to come alongside our Ecuadorian brothers and sisters to demonstrate Jesus' love in practical ways.

Garden Project



After weeks of preparation, several raised beds and recycled tires are now planted with a variety of vegetables on the empty lot at the Ferroviaria church in south Quito. This new garden space is called New Eden. An agricultural extensionist from the municipality visits once a month. JR makes the hour-long trip twice a week to coordinate the project and take care of the plants.



Children's Worker's Workshop



In addition to plants, new ministry is sprouting at the Ferroviaria church. Because of a recent change in leadership, they are revamping their Saturday kids' club. One of the first things they requested was training for the ladies who volunteer their time to work with the neighborhood children. Maria Belen, local International Child Care Ministries coordinator, organized a half-day workshop in early November at which I did the teaching. We discussed vision-casting, qualities of a good teacher, and classroom management techniques. I anticipate assisting Maria Belen with future workshops at Ferroviaria as well as in Esmeraldas.

Annual Meetings

In mid-November, we joined Ecuadorian church leaders at their annual meetings. Latin America Area Director Dr. Delia Nüesch-Olver and her husband Dr. Paul Olver oversaw the business meeting and presented training in leadership development and church growth. After the meetings, we were privileged to spend a couple of days with Delia and Paul to discuss our ministry here in Ecuador but also to sightsee and get to know one another better. We're very thankful for that time together and for their leadership and example.



Thank you so much for your partnership with us that allows us to make our home among the Ecuadorian people. Please pray that we will represent Jesus well and that people will be attracted to Him through our presence.

Thank you so much for your generosity, and we wish you a joyous Christmas!

Your partners in Latin America,

Becky J.R. Marissa Alena

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Missionary web page:

<http://fmcusa.org/fmmissions/j-r-and-becky-crouse/>

Please like our new Facebook page of "4 Below 0" at <https://www.facebook.com/fourbelowzero/>

Latin America Area website (Becky is part of the writing team.)

www.latinamericaarea.com

Important We ask all our financial partners, churches and individuals who are planning on supporting us financially in 2017 to **communicate your commitment**. Communicating your commitment each year is extremely helpful to us because it gives a means to know every partner standing with us in ministry and also be wise stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

Note: if you already are giving through an automatic donation with no end date, it is not necessary to submit an annual commitment.

Commitments can be communicated in a variety of ways. Go to <http://fmcusa.org/fmmissions/partner-in-ministry-through-commitments/> for more instructions. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 1.800.342.5531, ext. 236, and ask for Pam Sheads.

Thank you!!

Transportation Need

Living in a big city, it has been convenient to get around walking, on buses, or in taxis for short distances. Unless...it's rush hour and the buses are jammed full. Or you have something large to carry. Or there isn't a bus route to get where you want to go. Or it's after 9 pm and the buses stop running. Or it's raining and all the taxis are full. Or you sprain your ankle!



So, we've decided that it would be very helpful for us to have a vehicle. A missionary family is leaving and have offered us their vehicle. It's in very good shape and will do what we'll need it to do in the years ahead. Vehicles are expensive here, so we would really like to take advantage of this opportunity to buy a good used vehicle at a reasonable price (for here) from a trusted source. But since we didn't anticipate moving to Ecuador when yearly budgets were being made, the vehicle cost needs to be raised above our regular support amount. We're hoping to raise \$17,500 to cover the vehicle price.



If you would like to help with this purchase, here is how to direct your gift.

- For sending your gift electronically: Go to <http://fmcusa.org/fmmissions/j-r-and-becky-crouse/> and click GIVE
- For sending a check by mail: (Checks should be made out to "Free Methodist Church – USA")
Send to Free Methodist Church – USA, 770 N High School Road, Indianapolis, IN 46214

Praises

- Excellent annual meetings and time spent with the area director and her husband
- New ministry opportunities and that the girls are doing well at their new school
- Family visits over the holidays

Prayer Requests

- Complete healing for Becky's foot after falling and tearing a ligament
- Wisdom and direction for ministry
- Safety in travel for Becky and JR to meetings in Colombia and Peru in January