

News from Middle Earth

Update from the Crouse family in Quito, Ecuador
March 2017

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

Mattie Stepanek

Over the past months, we've been reminded that we work as part of a wonderful team to advance God's kingdom, here in Ecuador as well as more broadly in Latin America.



Home Team

We're so thankful for our families who support what we do and understand why we live so far away from them. They even take the effort to come visit us! Over Christmas, my (Becky's) mom and sister and her family visited us for a week. It was great to introduce them to our home, church, and places of interest in our new city. Then JR's parents came to stay with us for a month. They cared for the girls while JR and I traveled to conferences outside of Ecuador.

Missionary Team

We are part of a team of Free Methodist missionaries who serve in Latin America. Because we live in different countries we don't often get to fellowship and network together. In January, our area director Dr. Delia Nüesch-Olver organized a summit for all of us in Medellin, Colombia. In addition to learning how we are part of fueling and sustaining a biblical movement to reach Latin America for Christ, we were taught about soul care by Morris and Ruth Dirks. We greatly enjoyed being together and were reminded that we are not ministering alone.



International Team

In addition to the missionary team, we are part of an international team that serves in Free Methodist churches throughout Latin America. We were able to visit some of those teammates during the past couple months.



In late January, JR and I traveled back to Peru to participate in the annual meeting of the Peru Free Methodist Church and retrieve some stored belongings. We were encouraged to see that many people we had disciplined and counseled are still being faithful to God. We were especially pleased to be present for the arrival of a new Latin American family who will be working in community church planting in Lima.

In February, JR spent two weeks in Costa Rica and Nicaragua in his role as short-term team coordinator. He visited potential team sites in Costa Rica and assisted with logistics for a team from his home church who completed a major phase of a church building in Managua, Nicaragua.

National Team

We also work with a great national team here in Ecuador. The church has come through a time of reorganization, and new leaders are being trained and are committing themselves to ministry. In November, 20 people graduated from the first level of seminary classes. All 20 graduates have continued with the second level and a second group has recently begun the first level.

Recently, the national board and some other leaders traveled to visit our churches in Esmeraldas. Twice a year they pay their own travel and lodging expenses to remind the church people on the coast that they are important and part of a larger church body. On this occasion, they presented a marriage workshop and a children's program.

Support Team

You are also a necessary member of our team! Thank you for your prayers and support that allow us to live and minister here in Ecuador. A special thank you goes out to those of you who gave generously to allow us to purchase a vehicle that is already a huge blessing to our family. We pray that all the collaboration will result in wonderful things being achieved for Christ.

Your partners in Latin America,

Becky J.R. Marissa alma

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Newsletters and giving links:

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

Find lots more photos of all these events on our 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

Support address

Free Methodist Church - USA
770 N High School Rd
Indianapolis IN 46214

(Checks should be made out to "Free Methodist Church – USA" with a note that the gift should go to the Crouse missionary support account.)

You can also send your gifts electronically at: <https://give.fmcusa.org>

Praises

- Healing for Becky's sprained ankle so that she could participate in planned travel
- The purchase of a vehicle and that JR and Becky have obtained drivers' licenses
- Family visits over the holidays
- A productive and safe trip for JR to Nicaragua and Costa Rica

Prayer Requests

- Ecuador leaders' training retreat in community church planting on April 7-9
- Teacher training workshops that take place over the next few Saturdays
- Wisdom and direction for ministry
- Preparations for a short home assignment that will take place in July and August



"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live (and work) together in unity...For there the Lord bestows His blessing." Psalm 133:1, 3b