

# News from Middle Earth

Update from the Crouse family in Quito, Ecuador

June 2017



June 25 completes our first year in Ecuador! After a year our family feels settled and connected, mostly adjusted to our new life in the city, and thankful for where God has placed us. Here is what we have been up to the past few months.

## Community Church Plant Training

April 7-9, we joined approximately 50 leaders from all the Ecuadorian Free Methodist churches for a weekend of training and vision casting. Community church planting is being promoted throughout Latin America to introduce people to Jesus and to grow the church. JR and Pastoras Eunice and Mariana shared the training they received in Medellin, Colombia, with the national church. Please join us in prayer that God would give wisdom and vision to the national board on how to follow up after the training, and that He would direct each local church on how to get started.



## Teacher Training

After leading a workshop on qualities of a good teacher and classroom management techniques with the kids' club workers at the south Quito church, I (Becky) have also had the opportunity to present the same material to children's workers at the two other Quito churches and, this month, to teachers from the four Esmeraldas area churches on the coast. Teachers have greatly appreciated the training, and we anticipate planning more workshops in the days to come.



## Summer Team

The Ecuadorian church is getting ready to host a team of six from The Lamb's Fellowship Free Methodist Church in Lake Elsinore, California on July 20 - 31. They will be holding an English camp, helping with kids' clubs, and training church leaders in recovery ministry. Even though we won't be in Ecuador during their visit, we have been heavily involved in arranging logistics. They will stay in our home. We are praying that God protects and uses them greatly during their visit and that their ministry will have long term positive effects.

## Home Assignment

Where will we be during the team's visit, you wonder? We will be spending two months in the United States visiting supporting churches and spending time with family. It has been two years since our last trip to the States and we have not spoken at several of our supporting churches for at least four years. As usual, we will be based at JR's parents' home in western New York state. Our present schedule is listed here. You can find updates on our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing many of you soon! Thank you for your prayers and faithful support that have allowed us to live and minister in Quito this past year.

### Summer Schedule 2017

June 29	Arrive in US
July 8-9	Gowanda FMC
July 16	Dansville FMC
July 18-20	Cattaraugus Camp
July 23	TBA
July 30	Valley Chapel, Warsaw
August 6	S. Dayton FMC
August 13	Harvest Chapel, Fredonia
Aug. 21-27	Conference in Nicaragua
August 30	Return to Ecuador

Your partners in Latin America,

*Becky J.R. Marissa olivia*

P.S. If you would like a copy of our new prayer card (taken at the same time as the photo above), please let us know!

**E-mail address:**

[jr\\_crouse@fastmail.us](mailto:jr_crouse@fastmail.us)

**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](http://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**

- Completion of our first year in Quito
- Teacher training and community church planting seminars
- Provision of a car to use during our home assignment
- Girls' positive adjustment to their school

**Prayer Requests**

- Safety in travel and wisdom for speaking
- God's blessing on the Lamb's Fellowship team
- Safe travel and receptive hearts for the Community Church planting seminar in Nicaragua in August

**News about the Niñas**

Marissa is 16 years old and is finishing 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Alliance Academy International. It took a while to adjust after mostly homeschooling since second grade, but Marissa has done very well in a classroom setting. We're especially proud that she was inducted into National Honor Society. She has enjoyed participating in choir and an intercessory prayer group. After school, she has studied ballet and worship dance at a Christian dance studio, and she has enjoyed being part of two youth groups.



*11-year-old Alena will graduate from 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Alliance this month. She has gotten good grades and has been part of an enrichment program. Alena has especially enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends and having access to a library to support her reading habit. She has participated in two school musicals and is learning to play the violin.*

