

News from Middle Earth

Update from the Crouse family in Quito, Ecuador
September 2018



Fleeting Time

The summer flew by, and the girls are back in school. Our oldest is now a senior in high school (see more on the girls below). These events remind us that time is fleeting, and that we want to heed the counsel of Ephesians 5:15-16 that says, "So be careful how you live. Live as people who are wise and not foolish. Make the best use of your time." The following are the key items we have focused our time on during the past few months.

Community Church Planting (CCP) Summit

The emphases of Free Methodist World Missions in Latin America are developing leaders and planting churches. To that end, a pivotal summit for 42 leaders from 12 Latin American countries was held in Medellin, Colombia, in July. Becky was part of the two-person Ecuador delegation. Participants were given church planting materials that have been adapted for our local context and denominational identity. We met like-minded people who are implementing the principles of CCP in their countries, planned strategy for our own cities, and were assigned coaches to assist us in putting the training into practice. The whole event was saturated in prayer, and we anticipate that this event will spur the planting of hundreds of community house churches throughout Latin America.



Putting the Training into Practice

In Quito, several church people are committed to planting community house churches. Some have already identified "people of peace" (hospitable people in a community who are open to the gospel) and have started teaching them and their friends the basics of faith in Jesus using materials we received at the summit. Others have targeted certain communities and are praying and looking for interested people. CCP materials have been added to the seminary study curriculum. Please pray for us and district leader, Pastor Mariana (pictured at left), as we meet on a weekly basis to plan and pray together

on how best to facilitate the implementation of CCP in Ecuador. We are starting CCP training with interested church people who are not presently participating in seminary classes and are looking at ways to promote the movement in the Ecuadorian churches that are not yet putting it into practice. We also want to always be on the lookout for people of peace.

Where Did the Time Go? / News about the Niñas

We don't have any little girls in the family anymore as Alena became a teenager this month. She is starting 8th grade at Alliance Academy International (AAI) and is playing JV volleyball for the first time this year. She also participates in a junior high youth group that we lead along with the parents of her best friend. Alena's interests include art, reading, and spending time with her friends.

Marissa turned 18 last month, and she just started her senior year of high school at AAI. She is participating in choir, dance, and a senior high youth group. She obtained an insulin pump this month to help her better control her type 1 diabetes, and she is in the process of applying to universities for next fall.



Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and giving. Please join us in praying that we use each minute wisely to help make a larger impact for eternity.

Your partners in Latin America,

Becky J.R. Marissa Alena

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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

- Excellent CCP summit in Medellin
- Time with family in the States in July
- Acquisition of an insulin pump for Marissa

Prayer Requests

- Direction for the Ecuadorian church in implementing community church planting
- Wisdom for ministry and parenting
- Direction for college decisions
- VISA missions team here in Quito October 12-18