



News from Middle Earth

Update from the Crouse family in Quito, Ecuador
March 2019

Preparing the Soil

The children from the Ferroviaria kids' club raked and hoed the soil in their community garden to break up the clumps. As JR has been teaching them, they know they can't plant until the soil is properly prepared.

New Fields

Just like the kids had to prepare the soil before they could plant, good preparation must take place before attempting to plant a community house church. Since it was first presented to them two years ago, the Free Methodist Church in Ecuador has been studying and capturing the vision of Community Church Planting (CCP). In the past 6 months, the vision has been embraced and approximately 25 leaders, representing 4 churches, have completed studying the CCP intro manual and have committed to putting the principles into practice.



Now that the leaders have received preliminary training, they are receiving more specific training as they begin to investigate and pray for the areas (fields) where God is leading them to plant community house churches. Some leaders have been so eager to get started that they have already identified people of peace, have invited them to begin a relationship with Jesus, and are meeting with them weekly to disciple them. This weekend

evangelistic events are being planned for the children of two sectors of Quito, Pomasqui and Carapungo, to plant more seeds in the soil that has been tilled up.

Please join us in prayer that the seeds that are planted will bear much fruit. Also, please join us in prayer for a second group of leaders who began studying CCP principles this month. Pray that they will complete the course and will become co-laborers for the harvest.



Fields in Fallow

Leaving a field fallow for a time is a proven practice that revives tired soil and makes it more productive. After 26 years of missionary service, we are feeling the need for some fallow time. June 27 our family will travel to the U.S. to spend a year there. We will spend several months sharing in churches about what God is doing in Latin America, and we'll also be helping Marissa make the adjustment to college life. In the Spring we'll be taking a two-month sabbatical for deep rest and renewal so that we can return to Ecuador ready to serve with increased passion and capacity. Thank you for your prayers for all the details related to this important upcoming home assignment.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and giving. You are an indispensable part of the team.

Your partners in Latin America,

Becky J.R. Marissa olivia

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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.)

<https://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

- Training of leaders and preparations for church planting projects
- For the privilege we have to encourage and support church leaders and be actively involved in the training of new church planters
- Formation of several "houses of peace" in Quito.
- Completion of radioactive iodine treatment as a follow-up for JR's thyroid surgery
- Marissa has chosen a good college for next year

Prayer Requests

- Continued direction for the Ecuadorian church in implementing community church planting and productive and healthy processes for raising up new leaders, including ordained pastors
- Pray for the Gospel to be shared through/along networks of family and friends in the houses of peace, and pray for the leaders as they disciple new believers in Christ.
- Wisdom for ministry and parenting, especially in this time of transition and change over the next year
- Provision of good renters to sublet our apartment for the year we are in the States
- For a reliable, affordable vehicle while we are on home assignment next year
- For wisdom on the message that we should share with partner churches

