



News from Middle Earth

Update from the Crouse family in South Dayton, NY
October 2019

Seasons of Change

We arrived in the United States 3 months ago. The time has flown by in a flurry of activity getting our family set up for living in the States for a year and preparing to share our story with our supporting churches. As the seasons change from summer to fall, we realize that we are overdue in sending an update to you, our faithful prayer and financial partners.

Fall – Preparing for change

In the fall, animals prepare for the upcoming change of season, and as a family, we have been going through a season of great change. Marissa graduated from high school and left the continent where she grew up to attend a university in a country that in many ways feels unknown to her. Alena is in 9th grade at a public school that she hasn't attended since she was there for a few months in 3rd grade. JR and I are trying to prepare the girls and help them navigate the changes, while we are visiting supporting churches to encourage them to more fully engage in fulfilling the Great Commission. (See Matthew 28:18-20.)



None of this has been easy, but we have seen God's hand of provision at every step of the way. God provided a buyer for our car in Quito, someone to live in our apartment there, and a car to purchase here in the U.S. We're thankful to be settling into the second floor of JR's parents' house and for warm receptions at area churches. The girls are slowly but surely adapting and making friends. Thank you to those of you who have prayed for us during this time of transition.

Spring – Continued growth in Ecuador

We're also thankful that technology allows us to remain connected to our friends in Ecuador. Apps like Skype, Whatsapp, Zoom, and Facebook have permitted us to keep up with how everyone is doing and even participate in meetings and mentoring sessions. We are pleased to hear that the vision for Community Church Planting (CCP)

and leadership development continues to advance. Houses of peace and kids' clubs that were started in the Carapungo and Pomasqui neighborhoods of Quito continue to meet and help people grow in their knowledge of God. The second round of leaders who were just starting to study the CCP manual when we left have now completed it and are starting new houses of peace. Pastora Mariana, leader of the mission district, and Pastora Eunice, a missionary who has returned after a year in Mexico, are trying to juggle training leaders who are at different points in the process and who live in different locations. We'd appreciate your prayers for endurance and wisdom for them to know how to begin a process of training trainers that shares the task with other church leaders. We'd also appreciate your prayers that we would know how we can best assist them from here.



New season of partnership

We are so thankful that you and other supporters have helped to maintain our financial support at a pretty solid level through the years. God has always provided through people like you. This year we are at about 75% of our goal, so we need a little extra help before the end of the year. Thank you for considering us in your giving!

We are also realizing anew how much everything we do depends upon God's spirit, strength and favor. One of our goals while we are in the U.S. is to organize a prayer team who pray for us specifically and regularly. If you would like to be part of that prayer team, please let us know.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and giving. Your support helps sustain us through every season of life.

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](https://www.facebook.com/fourbelowzero/) 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

- Provision of someone to live in our apartment in Ecuador and a car for our time in the States
- Opportunities to share with supporting churches
- Good reports from the church in Ecuador

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.
- Grace for the girls in adapting to their new schools
- Energy and passion for sharing with partner churches
- For peace and calm in Ecuador during this time of violent reactions to government announcements of the end of fuel subsidies and other economic "belt tightening" measures