

Quarterly Mission Report to Woodbury Lutheran Church

Mission: International Teams/Youth World, Quito, Ecuador
Brad & Sandi Miller, Sarah & Hannah

Date: April 2, 2006 for Period **January 1-March 31, 2006**

Opportunity #1: Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW): January 23-27, Brad and the Expat Team facilitated another daily gathering for about 300 students and adults at the Alliance Academy. The speaker was Jeffrey DeLeon from Guatemala. A former AAI student and Youth World Intern, Mark Taube, led worship. Student's responses were very positive particularly among the Latin students. This was a huge answer to prayer as these are students that have been very difficult to reach.

Opportunity #2: Short Term Teams: Brad hosted 2 teams from the Fargo-Moorhead area, February 23-March 3 and March 16-24. There were numerous opportunities to challenge and encourage (both adults and students) team members with the biblical mandate to reach out and care for the poor and with God's calling on their lives.

Opportunity # 3: Baptisms: Brad participated in baptizing a number of people from Monte Zion Church, a Spanish speaking church where our Casa Gabriel boys attend. Four of the boys were baptized that day and many other new believers. It was baptism by immersion, outside on a sunny Sunday afternoon after the main church service. It was truly glorious!! That same day we celebrated with the boys afterwards with Chinese food for all the boys and staff at Casa Gabriel.

Opportunity # 4: Guittig: In February God drew an interesting Ecuadorian woman into Sandi's BSF group. She is SO open to God, His word and learning! Sandi is excited to see her every week, just to see how God is at work in her! As she does her lesson each week faithfully and we all share our answers to the Bible Study questions, God is transforming her before our very eyes!! It is so refreshing to see this seeker follow after God and *thirst* for more. *Guittig* is a natural, bubbling pure water sold here in Ecuador. At a luncheon recently, as this woman tried to describe what was happening inside of her, we connected this experience with the Holy Spirit being like *Guittig*, which is her beverage of choice! We all need more *Guittig (Holy Spirit)* refreshing us and transforming us each day!

Action #1: After Management Team meetings in our home January 30th, it was announced to our Youth World Team on February 2, that Brad would be assuming the role of Team Leader effective immediately. Our previous Team Leader, Russ Cline, returned from furlough mid-January with a clear calling to begin a new ministry called Leader Mundial (World Leader). The Management Team agreed that it was best for He and his family to be released immediately from Team Leader responsibilities, while remaining a part of Youth World for at least the next year. This propelled Brad from Interim Team Leader to Permanent **Team Leader** in a matter of days. Transition continues and is going well as the team has embraced Brad in this leadership role.

Action # 2: Our dear friend mentioned in the previous report, experienced the death and home going of her mother in January. Through God's hand we were able, once again, to offer His provision for **funeral expenses** through the gift of a hard-working lady from Woodbury Lutheran! This is a God-story!!

Action #3: Brad has been assistant **coaching** Varsity Girls Basketball this quarter. It has been a tremendous opportunity to pour in to young women through sports. He served as head coach for an American Schools Tournament in Guayaquil in February. He had great opportunity to lead strongly in challenging the team to God's character in adversity. They won the tournament, but more importantly they were light in the midst of darkness as none of the other teams are from Christian schools.

Action #4: We recently had the opportunity to assist men from Quito's **Prison**, who lost everything after a fire broke out in the jail. There is an active church with a Pastor of about 75, inside the jail. Our church supports this ministry. We all have been putting together clothing, towels, bedding, shoes, etc. for these men as a witness to God's care and goodness. Pray that the many new Christians will not be discouraged by this loss but encouraged by the love and care of God and that they will be inspired to share Christ with other inmates during this crisis.

We praise and thank God for:

1. Continued safety in the midst of increased crime and political unrest in the past weeks in Quito.
2. Sarah's acceptance to both Bethel University, MN and Azusa Pacific University, CA to study nursing.
3. Grace to face our first child leaving home and us returning to Ecuador for another 5 years...without her!!
4. Hannah's excitement about our upcoming Home Ministry Assignment, June 12-January 15, 2007.
5. The opportunity to see God at work all around us every day...more than we could ever communicate on paper!

Please ask God on our behalf for:

1. His clear leading and provision as we make final college decisions with Sarah in the coming weeks.
2. His clear leading and provision as we continue to make plans for our upcoming Home Ministry Assignment (HMA), June 12, 2006 to January 15, 2007.
3. His clear leading and provision for Brad as he continues to transition out of the old and into the new roles within Youth World. Wisdom in delegating!
4. His clear leading and provision for Sandi as she manages the upcoming 2 months of transition from our present house to a different one, Sarah's graduation, preparing to leave here for 7 months and preparing for HMA.
5. His clear leading and provision for Hannah as we plan her Home school and Internet Classes for next fall during HMA.

Signed: Brad & Sandi Miller