

Abide In Christ Ecuador Missions *Bucay - Fall 2023*

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

Beautiful crops of sugar cane, bananas and cacao trees encased the roadway as our team traveled from Cumanda to Suncamal for our first day of mission in Ecuador. Overcast skies settled over the village protecting us from the hot sun. Temperatures in the area were a welcome relief from the scorching heat we left in the U.S.



Left: Unloading supplies for the first day of clinics in Suncamal, Ecuador

Right: Setting up medical, dental and eye glass clinic



Right: Maria Francisco registers patients as they arrive for the clinics.



Above: Visitors to the clinic heard a beautiful gospel presentation by two new team members, Pastor Dan and Amy Ahlenius

Right: Dan and Amy using word pictures to share the gospel

Below: Wil and Erica translating for Dan and Amy



Two days were devoted to the community of Suncamal.

One glorious praise was witnessing Jose Vallejo Ramco accept Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior on his 99th birthday!

Right: On the far left is Jane Howell standing beside our translator, Elizabeth, who did an amazing job translating the gospel for her first time, to Jose.



Later in the week Jane had the special opportunity to lead Elizabeth to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Left: Elizabeth praying to receive Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior

The radiance of the Holy Spirit illuminated Elizabeth's face as she received Jesus! Tears of joy flowed from the windows of her soul as she hugged Jane. That in itself tells the story!





Located near Suncamal was a cheese processing facility we found doing door to door evangelism. We knocked on the door and a lady came to greet us. Elizabeth, our translator, asked if we could watch the process.

The process was very interesting. The owner and her 9 year old

daughter were putting fresh cheese in molds to form (pictured above). Afterwards the molds were then placed in a press to squeeze out excess water. Once the molds were under pressure, she had some down time to visit. Jane shared the gospel with the lady and she prayed to receive Christ as her Savior. Right: The cheese maker hears Jane share God's love for her and accepts Christ as her Savior



Left: Billy Windham dispenses medications to sick patient following examination. Three health care providers were a blessing and helped the medical clinic operate efficiently.

Due to activities in the communities and two deaths, one a 13 year old girl in an automobile accident, our clinics were not overly busy. This allowed for more one on one time with the people and the opportunity to share the Gospel. The large number of people who accepted Christ in such a small area was confirmation God had prepared those before we arrived to share the Good News.



Left: Donna Cobb listens to patient's complaints prior to examination.

Sadly in the two communities of Suncamal and San Vicente, there is no evangelical church. Pray for a church plant in these areas to help the large number of new believers to grow.

With permission from the teachers in each classroom, bibles and tracts were given to all the children and teachers. Today, in the U.S. public schools, this is not allowed!

Right: Don Dumas hands out bibles he brought to children in school in the community of San Vicente.



Left: Don sharing God's love with the children



Left: Bryan Carrillo, our team Ecuadorian dentist, examining patient. Bill Clements, shown in the photo, has served faithfully for many years as our dental sterilization technician. Bill also serves as treasurer for Abide In Christ.

Right: Bill Clements and Wil Pounds shown with some of the seminary students from Peniel Theological Seminary in Guayaquil.



A glorious ending to the week occurred when we shared the gospel with Darwin Lema, who worked managing the hotel where we stayed. Darwin was not working on the last evening we arrived at the hotel but had come there to meet some friends. Darwin graciously took time to hear how our week had gone and how a person could be assured of eternal life. Upon hearing the gospel, Darwin accepted Jesus as his Savior.



Left to right: John, Darwin, Alejandro, Don
Right: Don sharing with the students how Jesus loves them

Our Fall Ecuador team from Abide In Christ witnessed an amazing week. The Peniel students, as always, were exceptional to serve with and their contagious excitement set the tone. Alejandro and Dámaso did an excellent job in preparation and logistics. What an amazing group of translators, without which, we would have been helpless. Give thanks to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for the opportunity to serve! Glory to God for the things he has done!

As I looked back over the week in Ecuador I was reminded of the following poem put to music:

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory
I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long.

An angel brought glad tidings:
"Send all your fears away,
for Christ, your Lord and Savior,
is born for you this day."
Then many other angels
sang praise for Jesus' birth:



“To God on high be glory,
and peace to all the earth.”

Christ Jesus, pure and holy,
without a spot or stain,
by wicked hands was taken,
was crucified and slain!
And now the word is finished
the sinners debt is paid,
because on Christ the righteous
the sin of all was laid.

O wonderful redemption!
The price for sin is paid,
salvation is accomplished,
my heart is unafraid,
for God has raised Christ Jesus
to show the work is done;
his glorious resurrection
declared the vict’ry won!



The Savior of all people
has brought his peace to you;
now go and tell the story
for others need it too.
To ev’ry land and nation.
ring out the gospel call;
proclaim that Christ is risen
and grants his peace to all.

I love to tell the story;
‘twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

As 2023 comes to a close, please pray for the ministry of Abide In Christ, Peniel Theological Seminary and our Spring 2024 Mission Team as we transition back to Riobamba. Your prayers and support help make the Gospel known to a lost world. Thank you all and may God bless you!

Go and tell the story!
God is faithful! Amen!
John Howell

