

INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.

REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS

by
RevC

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

ECUADOR part 2



WOW! Where to begin? There has been so much taking place that it is hard to decide where to start. Let me begin where I left off in our June newsletter. If you remember, I was reporting on the new children's ministry that Vicky's mother had begun in a poor area outside of Junin, about an hour from Portoviejo. Vicky's grandmother, now 92 and living with Vicky's parents, lost most of her home in the earthquakes. Vicky's father, however, managed to put a truss system and a sheet metal roof on the small portion of her home that remained. The house is now serving as their meeting place in the village area although the ministry is outgrowing that facility. In the last meeting that Vicky and I attended, they moved the children's ministry to the village "town hall." Because it was graduation day for the kids who completed their current Bible lessons, there were more than 50 kids and several mothers in attendance!

I had ministered with a team about ten years ago at that same town hall and first met Vicky's parents there. It was like "déjà vu" as I saw ministry happening



and kids excited to learn about Jesus. I could still see in my mind all the

people sitting outside watching our dramas and flannelgraph Bible stories and the line of people inside being fitted for reading glasses that had been donated for our trip. To continue this work, Vicky's parents must rent the town hall, complete with chairs, each Saturday afternoon. They are not in a financial position, however, to do this on their own. In my last report, I asked for you to prayerfully consider helping them with this ministry. The cost of materials and the rental of the town hall will run about **\$125** per month. Please prayerfully consider doing what you can. Mark your gift "Junin Kids".



CRUCITA UPDATE

The first Sunday afternoon that we were in Portoviejo, we went to Crucita to see what has taken place in our investment. Christian and Lisette, who are attending a two-year ministry training program several nights a week in Portoviejo, are doing a great job there! How exciting it was to not only see the growing number of kids, but also several women and one father. Crucita, or "little cross," is a small fishing village with two Roman Catholic churches. There is a lot of spiritism in Crucita as well as a strong occult presence with at least one practicing "satanic high priest-

ess" that we know about. Crucita also has a cultural history of men being "macho," having little sense of responsibility for their family or the importance of a relationship with God. Thus, trying to plant a church in the midst of such darkness is definitely a front-line battleground situation. Fortunately, David and Jenny Newhouse, a couple from the US, have moved into the area and are seeking what God might have for them in the way of ministry. While they learn Spanish, and get to know the village, they are helping Christian and Lisette. David has especially felt a desire to reach out to the men. On the Sunday we were there, they had their first father visit the children's program. On Father's Day, there were about a dozen fathers who came to experience the children's ministry. PTL!



One of the exciting things we experienced that Sunday in Crucita was "prize day." During the month, the kids receive reward tickets for attendance, learning their memory verses, and answering Bible questions from their lessons. On prize day, the children trade their tickets for small prizes that are theirs to keep. It was amazing to see the mothers' excitement

as they watched their kids choose something to take home.

We also witnessed a small part of the Pedro/Pablo (Peter and Paul) festival, a celebration that has its roots in Roman Catholicism. The festival, which was a parade of fishing boats following a larger boat with an idol, started early that morning and went on throughout the day and into the night. The boats grew in number to about 40 and were loaded with people, many of whom had been drinking



since the start and were not wearing life jackets. I was told that people often drown during the festival from overloaded boats and drinking. At one point, the idol was brought to shore where hundreds of other people waited to follow it on land as it was carried through the streets to a church where it was enshrined. I have seen other idols being carried through the streets of Portoviejo on the backs of decorated trucks, with a string of cars following. It is hard to imagine such darkness and deception in this day and age! The deception is real, however, and has blinded

the eyes from knowing the truth. This is yet another reason for the work we are a part of throughout Ecuador as we train laborers, lift the name of Jesus, and pray He draws men and women to Himself. Thank you to **Eastgate Community Church** for helping to sponsor the ministry in Crucita!

Pastor Uyammi Update

Thank you to **John B.** and to **June D.** for their response to the March newsletter where I shared about the need to provide Pastor Uyammi a bamboo home added to the side of her church. I was able to forward the funds to her, and she is now living in the added area. Though her home still has a dirt floor, she was also able to put a cement floor in the sanctuary area. Pastor Uyammi is an amazing woman. I have given her other gifts for her personal needs, only to find that she used them for the church instead. Not only is her home very humble, but the neighborhood where she lives is also very poor. Prior to her establishing the church, the area was known for being a habitat for drug users and thieves. When she started the church, she got legal permission to do so. After the earthquakes destroyed her building, non-believers in the area grouped together and went to the government to have her church removed. Because crime and drug problems have dramatically decreased since she has been there, the government decided not to make any changes. Vicky has already preached to her prayer group meeting where they fast, pray, and hear the Word, from 8am to 2pm each Thursday.

Pastor Uyammi wanted me to write John and June's full names in her prayer book so she could pray for them. Giving often **"buys"** prayers on behalf of the giver from those who receive. Perhaps this is a crude way to express it, but when a need is met, it moves the receiver to ask God's blessings on the giver. I do so all the time as you give to meet needs, whether they are the needs of our family or ministry needs. Your giving moves us to pray for you, asking God to bless you so you can continue to give! None of us can give until we first receive!!

GUAYAQUIL UPDATE

Vicky and I left Sarah with her aunt Angela and cousins and went to Guayaquil to teach for five days prior to flying to Peru (next month's report). The training program in Guayaquil is going well. Pastors Jessica and Alberto Balbuca are overseeing five CTC locations. We were there to teach the fifteen students who are studying each weekday afternoon in the main facility. Together they have graduated over 340 students from the CTC program over the years. Jessica has about 40 students enrolled in the three locations that she oversees; Alberto has about 80 students divided between three locations.

The enemy made another attempt to take us out as we were crossing a one-way street in front of the mission house. A car backed up going the wrong way, hitting me and knocking me into Vicky and both of us to the pavement. Fortunately, the driver stopped after hitting me and did not run over us. We were both shaken up but only bruised.

We went back a couple of weeks later, on my birthday, to preach and provide credentials for graduates from the CTC program. I think there must have been about 100 in this group who had proven themselves called to the work of the ministry and were actively serving in some capacity. Please remember them in your prayers.

First Ever WOMEN'S Conference

For several weeks prior to our return to Ecuador, Vicky had been discussing with me her desire to do a one-day women's conference in Portoviejo. As far as we know, there never had been one. She felt strongly that God wanted her to help put one together in the church her family pastors. This would not have been possible had we not added the second story and renovated the downstairs a year ago. The small sanctuary now seats 100.

Vicky and her family began to make the plans which largely fell to Vicky and me to organize and implement. I was to help Vicky prepare the decorations, including making 30 large paper flowers, lettering the welcome sign, and hanging everything, as well as oversee the preparations and supervision of the lunch meal. **Talk about stress — this was my first and last women's conference!**

Vicky was praying for 80 ladies, I told her she would be doing well to get 40. A week before the actual conference, she had about twelve registered even though it only cost \$5 and included lunch and door prizes arranged through professional friends giving their time and effort. However, there were **103 women** in attendance! We actually fed **128** in three shifts within just a little more than an hour.



The conference was a great success with lots of tears and rejoicing as God moved on the hearts and in the lives of these precious ladies. As the main speaker ministered, the Holy Spirit moved in prophecy, deliverance, and words of knowledge. The conference was scheduled to end at 5pm but did not actually clear out until about 6:30. It was a great day!

My dear friend, **Mark McCrickard**, was to go to China for me in November, but suffered a stroke and is now in rehab. He is trusting God to heal him, and our prayers can make a difference for him. Please remember Mark and Aimee; they are now a family!

As always, your support makes a difference. The work in Junin and Crucita both need financial help—simply mark your gift Junin or Crucita. I'm still believing for the two churches in Malawi. We need \$20K total to build both churches and currently have \$4000—thank you to those who have responded. We can do this folks and truly make a difference in the lives of Muslims who need Christ. There is always a need for help training pastors and Christian leaders. \$500 will help us train a pastor! Personally, we also need your faithful support to enable us to move forward as a family in all that God has called us to do. We are praying for you and thank you for all you do!

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