



Exciting News from Bella Esperanza

It was a sunny Saturday morning in the rural community of Bella Esperanza. After driving about two hours southeast of where we live in the city of Loja, we parked our vehicle on the side of the road, because the last leg of our journey would have to be on foot. The mountain views were beautiful as we hiked approximately half a mile. We were glad to be able to share this experience with three of our ministry partners from Lifebridge Christian Church. The hill is quite steep in some places, though, and there were a few slips and falls on the way down. However, the reception we received as we got close to our destination made it worth all the effort.

Our destination that morning was the home of a lady named Alba. Even though we met Alba just a few months ago, we feel like we have known her for years. She came up the hill to meet us with a contagious smile and a warm welcome. Soon we arrived at her simple, country home, where we were greeted by her family members.

Alba loves to study the Bible and was thrilled for one of the men from Lifebridge to lead us in a study of God's word. Alba and our three visitors shared their testimonies as well. We were all encouraged to hear how God had worked in each person's life, bringing them to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and leading them step by step in their spiritual journey. For a long time after Alba committed her life to Christ, her family rejected her, which is common here. Within the community, the rejection can range from ostracism to physical persecution. So we were excited to hear that Alba had recently had an opportunity to share God's word with a couple in her community who were having marital difficulties and asked for her advice. We rejoiced with her and prayed together that God would continue to give her wisdom from above to counsel this couple and lead them to a relationship with Him.

A couple of weeks later, we received a phone call from Alba. She was visiting her daughter, who lives here in the city of Loja. It was a pleasure for us to invite her to our home and share a meal with her and her daughter, who lives not too far from us. We are thankful for many opportunities like these to come alongside believers, encourage them in their spiritual journey and equip them to reach out to those who need a relationship with Christ. Please pray for wisdom to make the most of every opportunity to impact lives for eternity.

Enjoying the journey,

Jeff & Terri



Sharing special music at a house church with friends from Lifebridge Christian Church

Ministry Highlights

- God continues to impact marriages through the monthly couples' meeting at our church. In August, we began to focus more on following up with couples between meetings. Please pray for us as we develop relationships with the 8 couples in our group and encourage them to put into practice the biblical principals we are learning.
- The ministry of Pura Vida continues to grow. In September, Terri started a blog in Spanish where people can find helpful information about nutritional healing. It is still in the developmental stage, but if any of you Spanish speakers would like to check it out, the site is:
www.puravidalojana.wordpress.com
- For several months now, Nathanael & Kaitlyn have enjoyed participating with other young people in a ministry called Caminata Bíblica, which is a Spanish version of Walk Through the Bible. In addition to teaching the motions for key biblical events, they prepare dramas to help these events come alive for people.
- The last week of July, we enjoyed a visit by three ministry partners from Lifebridge Christian Church in Decatur, Alabama. The Lord used their testimonies, teaching and preaching to bless the children at our church's Vacation Bible School and many other people around the Loja province.
- We thank the Lord for a fruitful time with our ministry partners Doug & Maureen Hovda, who were here September 17th through October 1st. God used them to touch many lives as they shared the Word of God, their testimonies, special music and words of encouragement. For more details about their visit, see our blog:
jeffandterri.org
- On October 16th, Jeff began the study "Introduction to Leadership" at a church here in Loja City. Please pray as he meets monthly with this group of 10-12 leaders and aspiring leaders.
- When new missionaries arrive on the field, we are assigned mentors to help and support us during our first year. Pray for us as we serve as mentors for Matt & Alisa Tingle, who arrived in Ecuador on July 17th.

Financial support can be sent to:

SIM USA Receipting, PO Box 7900, Charlotte, NC 28241. Checks should be made out to "SIM USA." Our account number is 34390.

You can also invest online by visiting our blog: jeffandterri.org/partner-with-us/

Family News

Thank you for praying about our Ecuadorian ID cards ("cédulas"). Having cédulas has greatly simplified our lives the last few months. Another praise report is that our university and seminary degrees were recently recognized by the Ecuadorian government. This gives us more credibility and opens up more opportunities for ministry.

In August, we enjoyed our first vacation since returning to Ecuador. We had fun exploring areas we had never been to in the eastern jungle and revisiting some places we had not been to for many years.



Doug & Maureen Hovda with us in Loja

Abby is now in the 6th grade. She is really enjoying the guitar and art lessons she began in September.

On September 30th, we celebrated Kaitlyn's 15th birthday. Some of the activities she enjoys are cooking, violin, participating in Caminata Bíblica and taking care of our English Cocker, Alishungu.

Nathanael is enjoying his Moody Bible Institute online courses. His major is linguistics. He also serves on the youth leadership team at our church, participates in Caminata Bíblica and Spotlight English ministry. He continues to practice piano and has recently been learning to play the bongos.



Kaitlyn with some friends on her 15th birthday