



The Joy of Discovery

The day after we returned to Loja, a good friend of ours asked us if we could start a Bible study. She had family members who were interested in studying the Bible, including some who do not know the Lord. So, our second week back in Loja, Ecuador, we started a weekly study on the Life of Christ.

After a few weeks, our friend, Sandra, told us her adolescent niece and nephew were so anxious to get to the study that they were ready to leave an hour early. They had attended Bible studies and other activities at church, so she asked them, "Why are you so much more excited about this study?" Their answer was, "This study is different." Then they went on to mention some characteristics that attracted them to the meeting.

One of their comments that encouraged us greatly was, "Brother Jeff and Sister Theresa listen to what we have to say without correcting every little mistake we make." As we endeavor to help people have a clear understanding of God's word, it is tempting to correct every idea that we don't agree with. Even if a comment is clearly unbiblical, we have discovered that it is much more effective to look at the Bible passage and

lead people through the process of observation, to discover the truth they had previously missed. Please pray for us as we continue to develop this important skill.

Another characteristic that attracted them to the study is that we encouraged them to use a Bible application with audio. The nephew has a smart phone, and they love being able to use it to read and listen to the Bible.

In this study, we are reading through all four gospels in ten weeks. This means reading at least one chapter a day, some weeks a little more. It excites us to hear their observations about what they have read each week and to see their enthusiasm about reading the word of God.

A couple of weeks ago, God used this contagious enthusiasm to impact the life of one of our neighbors. T.M., who runs a small business near our house, accepted Jeff's invitation to attend the Bible study. He admitted he had rarely read the Bible, so it excited us that he was able to see that other people in the group were enthusiastic about reading God's word. Please pray that T.M. will continue to attend the study and discover the joy of discovering the truths of the Bible and applying them to his life.

Jesus told his disciples, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32, ESV). Please pray for wisdom from above to facilitate the joy of discovering God's truth, which leads to salvation and freedom in Christ.

Sharing the joy of discovery,

Jeff & Terri



Some of the enthusiastic participants in our Saturday Bible study

Ministry Highlights

- We stand amazed at God's faithfulness and the generosity of His people, which enabled us to **return to Ecuador** in September. The amount of one-time support surpassed our goal, covering some unexpected expenses related to our transition back to Ecuador and some equipment we needed for ministry. A few days after returning to Ecuador, a monthly support commitment came in for the exact amount we needed to bring us up to 100%. Thank you for your generosity! Almost everybody has started sending support to ZMission, but we are including a response card, just in case.
- Just a few days after we arrived in Loja, Terri was asked to teach an intensive English course at **the university**. That was a challenge, but provided a great opportunity to get to know the students and speak into their lives.
- It thrills us to see the progress that has been made to get a **campus ministry** started in the two major universities here in Loja. We consider it a privilege to encourage these students who desire to live out and share their faith on the campuses where they are studying.
- God has blessed us with the opportunity to get to know and minister alongside Edwin and Xiomara, the couple who are pastoring **our church** while the missionaries who founded it are on home assignment in Ireland. Presently, we are involved in teaching, preaching and discipleship.
- We were pleasantly surprised that the owners of a local health food store offered Terri space to talk with customers who want more information about **integrative nutrition**. They are happy for her share from the Scriptures and discuss the relationship between physical, emotional and spiritual health. Please pray for wisdom to make the most of this opportunity.



First IFES* meeting this semester at the university
*Known as Intervarsity in the U.S., CECE in Ecuador

Family Highlights

- We are thankful that **Jeff** has not had any more complications since his surgery for retinal detachment eight months ago. Thank you again for your prayers.
- **Terri** is grateful for the opportunity to take online courses with the Institute for Integrative Nutrition. This is giving her a lot of good information to share, as well as tools to help people discover how to improve their physical, emotional and spiritual health.
- It encourages us to see how God has answered our prayers to give **Nathanael** a smooth transition to Canada Institute of Linguistics in Langley, BC, Canada. Please pray for him during the stressful final stretch of the fall semester.
- **Kaitlyn** is also working hard to get all her assignments completed and preparing for final exams at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. It comforts us to see how well she is enjoying her experience there and that it is a great fit for her.
- Long before we returned to Loja, **Abby** was looking forward to getting back to her French classes at the French Alliance. As parents, it makes us proud to hear her teachers compliment her on how well she is progressing. In addition to her regular homeschool curriculum, she is also enjoying ballet classes and continues to develop her musical skills on guitar and piano.



Some of the participants in the "Healthy Living" course Terri recently taught at our church

**Enclosed is my investment in the ministry to which God has called
Jeff & Terri Rains in Ecuador**

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If you have a question about Bill Pay, or if neither of the options offered on this card work for you, please **contact Jeff & Terri at: [jrains@zmission.org](mailto:j rains@zmission.org) by email; jeffandterri on Skype or (256) 280-4232 by phone. Thank you!**