

MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER, OCT 2021  
**SING TO THE LORD**

*Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.  
(Isaiah 12:5)*



On the last Sunday of September, we attended the anniversary service of the Methodist Church, El Buen Pastor de Pijal. It is always an immense joy to greet and see our sisters, brothers, and Pastor Carmen and the leaders; because we are still in pandemic, the church showed great discipline in terms of Covid prevention protocols.

A service full of joy and participation of the congregation, with praises guided by youth, adults, and children, singing in Spanish and in Quichua. And as usual, they also had musical presentations with the presence of 2 or 3 generations of families singing of God's love and salvation. We were able to see sister Maria, one of the local lay leaders, singing with her baby on her back, the baby was also part of the singing and Glory that the people give to the Lord.

In the midst of this fullness of your Church, God we give thanks to you, for your presence among the people of Pijal, for your presence in every community in which pastors and leaders bear witness to a new and fulfilling life in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

**Current news from Ecuador.**

Dear friends, thank you for keeping us in your prayers, we remember you and miss you here.

We are very happy that now in Ecuador Covid vaccinations are available for teenagers from 12 years old and up. Little by little activities are coming back to normal but we still have some restrictions like using face masks, physical distancing in stores, restaurants and churches, small numbers in meetings, and mostly everybody is being careful. The Ministry of Health says that 79 % of the population older than 16 has now been vaccinated and as of the middle of October, they will start vaccinating children 5 years and over. Overall, we give thanks because God's love and mercy is new every day.

We are happy that due to the advances in vaccination in Ecuador we can foresee that in 2022 we will be able to securely receive mission teams working and sharing with Ecuadorian churches. Please, if there are some VIM teams planning mission trips, do not hesitate to communicate with us for details, it will be a joy to be able to receive you.

We pray and hope that vaccinations will be available to all countries of the world, and by God's mercy, the crisis will reduce its impact on daily life throughout the world.

In other news in the past week about violent conflicts in one of the largest prisons in Guayaquil, the country is calm again. We know that the conflicts have not ended, but we are sure that God will be helping leaders to find better days for the country.

We ask for prayers for our country, prayers for the children and teenagers that have already started the school year, mostly continuing in virtual classes. We ask prayers for all the activities at the churches, afterschool programs, and the programs for children, women, and families; and prayers for many families who have lost jobs.

### **We ask for prayers for needs and priorities of the Church in Ecuador**

We ask you to pray that the Lord will continue to care for our Pastors who have sustained the ministry during this pandemic; amid uncertainty, they are making the Good News available in many creative ways. Almost all the Methodist Churches now have their services in person, with appropriate protections against Covid.

We also want to thank you so much for the support you have provided for all these years for our missionary support, children's programs, scholarships and construction of churches, classrooms, and infrastructure.

In midst of the social and economic crisis, the Church in Ecuador needs help to cover the salaries of pastors (6 female pastors and 12 male pastors). The local congregations are joyfully emphasizing local offerings and tithes, but it is still short. In coordination with our Bishop and authorities we want to ask our friends and partner Churches that for current year 2021 and next year to consider supporting the primary priority in Ecuador to help with this need, Pastoral Support in Ecuador Advance Project # 3021092.

These funds can be sent thru the official United Methodist donation channel, The Advance, using the link: <https://advance.umcmision.org/p-409-pastoral-support-in-ecuador.aspx>

Your church and your family are part of the mission work in Ecuador, and we thank God for this.



Love and greetings from my husband, Dakin Cook, and I, we hope to see you soon.  
Dios les bendiga,

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