



INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.
REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS
 by
RevC
 September 2021
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!
Robbed & New CTC in Ecuador



We left home on August 3 at 2PM on our way to Ecuador for a short two-week trip. I planned to start a new CTC program by teaching the first week of class and Vicky and I were scheduled to preach a couple of times. Also on the agenda was Sarah's surgery to correct an issue in her nasal passage. We cleared customs at 1:30 AM EST, met Vicky's sister and her husband, Fernando, at the airport, and all set out for the three-hour drive to Portoviejo.

We loaded four big bags and four carry-ons that I had strapped together into the back of the pickup truck. Halfway through the trip, we heard something hit the pavement behind us. As we slowed down, Angela and Sarah saw a man jump from the back of the truck. When I got out to see what was happening, I quickly found the last of the carry-ons along the side of the road and the other three gone with the thieves as well as one of the big suitcases.

Although we reported it to the police, we realized there was really nothing they could do at this time of night and that the stolen suitcases were long gone by now. We spent another hour searching the roadsides with our cellphone lights just in case, but to no avail. We lost clothes, Vicky's Surface Pro, my two pairs of glasses, spare contacts, my shoulder therapy exercise equipment, medicines, vitamins, and my running shoes, etc. Thankfully, my briefcase with our travel cash, my computer, and a computer we purchased for someone were safe in the cab with us. It was 6 AM when we finally made it to Portoviejo, exhausted, and emotionally drained.

We remembered that **1Thessalonians 5:18** says, **"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you!"** We gave God praise that no one was shot or injured and knew that all that was lost could eventually be replaced. The next two weeks were a bit more challenging, but it was just more evidence that the enemy was not happy about us starting yet another CTC location. We would appreciate your prayers for our continued safety and liberty to help start new CTC programs and especially for this group of students in Ecuador as they begin their training!

As a postscript to being robbed, we learned that there is a well-organized, well-trained gang that has lookouts at the airport watching for pickup trucks loaded with suitcases. Gang members would notify others by cell phone as to what to watch for and where they would be going according to the license plate tag. Then when the pickup would slow to a stop, they would skillfully board and empty the back of its belongings to other members along the road who disappeared into the night. When Fernando shared our experience with

his boss the next day, the boss related that he had returned from the USA after purchasing over \$7000 worth of items that people had given him money to buy. Thieves stole everything from the back of his pickup, and he had to refund the loss to everyone. We will never again drive at night from the airport with our luggage loaded into a truck!

Sarah's surgery was a success and took less time than expected. She will attend USF this fall as a second semester sophomore due to credits she completed while attending Mitchell High School. Her goal is to become an anesthesiologist. This was her first time to be put "asleep" for surgery and she shared her goal with her doctor. He said to her, "It is a good goal, and it is the closest thing to being God as you literally have the power to bring someone back to life." I have reminded Sarah that it is a tremendous responsibility to accept. Sensing God's hand is on Sarah's life, it will be interesting to see how His plan unfolds. Please pray for her.

NEW CTC PROGRAM IN ECUADOR

My main reason for coming to Ecuador was to start a new CTC program in the **El Rosario district of Manabi**. This is a mountainous area about 90 minutes outside of Portoviejo where Vicky's parents live. The drive is taxing with 33 large speed humps on the main road. The other half of the drive up the side of the mountain is a two-lane asphalt road. Sections of the road have washed out, leaving pothole filled gravel areas and places where weeds have taken over the



road. There are some spectacular views scattered along the way, however. As we traveled every day on the road, we saw homes made mostly of bamboo with timber floors raised

up on cement columns and passed men on burro or horseback making their way up or down the mountain. This man is riding a mule, or "mula" in Spanish. It is a cross between a donkey and a horse. As both are differ-



ent species, the mule is sterile, unable to reproduce. This one appears to have a donkey's body but a head more like that of a horse.

We passed through the town of **Sucre**, named for a general that helped win a battle in 1822 that eventually led to the Republic of Ecuador. Very near Sucre is another town and a Catholic Church both named after the date on which the battle took place, the **24th of May** indicated by the display in front of the church.

From there we made our way to Noboa which was the last town before climbing the mountain.



Noboa was named for **Álvaro Fernando Noboa**, an Ecuadorian

businessman who **unsuccessfully** ran for President five times but who also holds 49% of the Bonita Banana empire.



Here are a couple bamboo houses that are like many you would see along the way.



Pastor Wellintong Rodriguez's parents invited the five of us who came each day from Protoviejo to

have a delicious breakfast of roasted **maduro** (a sweet plantain) and a watery type of cheese. This is the inside of their bamboo home. The windows are open with no glass or screens. All walls are bamboo and floors are thick wooden planks.



Pastor's parents own a large piece of land where they have envisioned a church that would seat 300 along with a conference center and campgrounds. There are only Catholic churches in this whole district so the presence of an evangelical protestant church could make a huge difference. They



have started with this building which will house a growing congregation and the CTC program.

This photo with me

is of pastor and his wife Marjorie.



There were as many as 15 that sat in on the teaching with six students taking the final exam and two more yet to do so. Please remember to pray for this new work. We supplied all the furnishings and sound equipment to get the program started.

3-TON TRUCK UPDATE

We have raised **\$5,200** of the **\$16,000** needed for the 3-ton truck in Malawi. Please continue to pray about helping with this project as it is very much needed. Just mark your gift "Truck". Another opportunity to make a difference! Thank you in advance for keeping us moving forward. As always you are in our prayers! We are doing our best to be good stewards of your support. Please continue to stand with us! **TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!!**

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