



INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.

REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS

by

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

CHINA: NEW GROUP & ECUADOR



I was excited to return to China to begin a new group where we first started working there! The location is in the western part of the country, outside a major city in the surrounding mountains. I was met at the airport and taken to what seemed like a farm that

had been converted into a training compound. I saw a garden area, orchard, cooking area, and several rooms linked together with separate entrances from the outside. There were several pine trees lining the roadway as we made our way through the padlocked entrance gates, up the dirt drive, and under an old wooden arch that perhaps in years past had served as the formal gate to the property. On the way up the hill we passed an orchard on the left and a garden area on the right. There was another garden on the left as we approached the buildings. When we rounded the curve, I noticed a small structure to my left that seemed to be made out of bamboo. I would later discover the special use for this building. At the end of the drive was an area for playing basket-



ball with an old, nearly worn out basketball goal and hoop without a net.



The classroom building was at the end of the row of rooms that housed the students and the family that lived there overseeing the property and students' training. The stu-



dents in this group were younger than I normally see but very zealous to learn. I could tell they were very happy that an American had come to teach them. The carpeted, brick classroom had a rack just outside the door for shoes, with many

pairs, along with mine, on the ground below the rack when class was in session. The photo here was taken at the end of our week as the students were taking their exam.



You can see the electronic drums in the forefront of the photo that were used during the time of worship that started each day of class.

After class on the first day, two of the girls offered to give me a tour of the compound. I think they were anxious to practice their English more than anything! We ended the tour by their treating me to a time of "tea" done the traditional Chinese way. Because this was not my first experience with "tea" in China, I knew what to expect. For the Chinese, having a cup of tea is a very special experience. It is used to build relationship more than to drink tea, and even more special inside the bamboo "tea house"! They do pride themselves, however, in their teas; the tea we were drinking came from plants that had



been producing tea for over 800 years. They told me this made the tea very special. When they make the tea, they pour out the first pot as they believe it doesn't have the best flavor. The second and subsequent pots of tea are then poured into tiny cups as you see in the

photo. Each cup of tea is only about a swallow's worth and meant to be sipped so as to draw out the time and process of drinking a pot of tea together. This gave my two "guides" considerable time to practice their English and get to know what they desired to learn about their teacher. The girls' excitement was quite entertaining!

As it was our first week, we covered "General Discipleship I," designed to lay a basis of understanding and get everyone on the same page so the remainder of the CTC program could be built on a solid foundation. The students did well on their exam and were given the rest of book one. This is the first

semester material, over 700 pages in length, using a twelve-point font and very little spacing. Their assignment was to read book one before I return. Please remember to pray for these young people, many of whom are already leaders in their church.



ECUADOR

We always look forward to visiting Ecuador, seeing family, teaching in the CTC programs, and doing what we can to encourage the growth of the church. For Vicky and Sarah, it is special because of their close ties to family and friends. Even though they are in almost daily contact using “WhatsApp,” it is just not the same as being together.

The three-story building to the left of the church in Portoviejo had to come down. Workers are currently building a smaller, two-story apartment. This leaves part of the outside wall of the church exposed on the apartment side. Water was beginning to come in to the second floor that we added last year to encourage the growing children’s ministry. I felt it was necessary to put a cement “stucco” covering over the remaining exposed areas on 3 sides of the building and seal any cracks or openings. That was an unexpected cost of \$950 but will help to protect our investment in the building. **If any of you can help us with this cost, please do and mark your investment “Ecuador Stucco.”**



One exposed side shown here

Vicky and I were blessed to find out that in May, Vicky’s mother, Maria, started a children’s ministry in Junin, the town of Vicky’s birth. Vicky’s 92-year-old grandmother now lives with Vicky’s parents in Portoviejo. Not only was her health an issue, but also her two-story home in Junin was destroyed in the earthquakes. Only about a fourth of the



walls of her house were still standing!

Vicky’s father managed to put up a metal support truss and a sheet metal roof



so it could be used as a meeting place for the children’s ministry. Two things led to this new outreach:

the growth in the children’s ministry in the church in Portoviejo, and our encouragement of Vicky’s father and mother to let the younger members of the family assume more responsibility for the ministry there. Maria invited Vicky and me to come see the new outreach held every Saturday afternoon. There were more than 50 kids and a few adults inside the



small space, sitting around the outside walls, and standing in the door-way! I shared briefly to encourage the kids

to hide God’s Word in their hearts. Next, Maria taught a lesson from some children’s materials they were using. The kids then recited their memory verse from the previous Saturday. After Vicky led them in prayer, Sarah and her cousins passed out cake and soda. It was children’s day in Ecuador, so Maria brought each one some candy and a pencil. This is a poor area of Junin, thus even a pencil was a big deal to these kids. **One hundred dollars a month would really help them! If you can help, please mark your extra gift for “Junin”!**



As always, we so appreciate you standing with us in prayer and financial support. We always seem to need more of that to do the things God puts before us. Most likely I will be in China as you read this newsletter, so please remember to pray for us. Your prayers do make a difference! Also, please pray that we receive God’s favor with the publishers of the material we borrowed for our CTC program. We need their partnership to be able to move forward. You’re in my prayers and we are believing God to bless you to be a blessing! God grant it so!

TOGETHER WE’RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

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