

Stroup Update October 2022

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Hello everyone, and Happy Reformation Day! Praise God for His glorious grace that has been revealed in Jesus Christ! Hallelujah that salvation is a free gift of God and not something that I have to earn - as if I could!! No, "salvation belongs to the Lord" say the Scriptures. "And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." No system of religion or amount of effort can change a sinner into a saint. Any man or religion that teaches in contradiction to the Scriptures must be rejected. Rather, our boast is in Jesus Christ! The King of the universe, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Passover Lamb slain for us, the One who will come to judge the world in righteousness! It is Him that we lift high, Him that we herald to the perishing, and Him that we cling to day in and day out, when life is calm or when facing trials and persecutions. His Word alone is our authority, and thus we strive to declare the truths of the Scriptures faithfully, doing the hard work of thinking critically and asking many questions about what we read in the Bible rather than blindly accepting the interpretations of fallible men. May we always seek reformation in our own lives as we look to our great God to conform us ever more into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ. All for His glory alone!!

English Camp



English Camp teachers and worship team from Iglesia Jesed Catamayo

In August we held an outreach English Camp for the children here in Guayzimi. We want to tremendously thank the eight brothers and sisters who joined us from the U.S. to teach English and U.S. sports to about 90 local kids. Your love and commitment to Christ and to the kids of Guayzimi was such an encouragement to us and a blessing to our community. The Downs family also joined us to help with translation, transportation, babysitting, and many other tasks - thank you!! At the end of the week we organized a graduation ceremony to honor the kids for their hard work. They presented skits for their parents, I preached the gospel, some of the teachers shared their salvation testimony, and a group of believers from a church about 4 hours away came to sing some worship songs. Feedback from the townspeople was all positive, with several asking why we couldn't do the classes for several weeks instead of just one. We praise God for granting us a great week, and trust that He will provide growth to the seeds that were sown and watered. As the Lord wills we are looking forward to holding another English camp next summer - mark your calendars and come on down!



English Camp Graduation Ceremony

Church in Guayzimi

The reason why we live here in Guayzimi, Ecuador is to establish healthy biblical churches in our county where none existed. This ministry involves declaring the gospel to unbelievers, making disciples in the context of local churches, and appointing elders to shepherd the flock of God. Our focus up to this point has been establishing a church in the town where we live, Guayzimi, which is the largest town in our county (about 4000 people, and always growing). The Lord by His grace has brought into our lives 3 other believing families with whom we have been gathering for worship, prayer, and

proclamation of the Scriptures. We praise God that in the last few months we have seen greater initiative among the saints to submit to the Scriptures in regard to recognizing ourselves as a local church. One brother brought an offering basket one Sunday and shared how we should begin collecting offerings that we could use towards renting a storefront in town with the prayer that such a move would establish a gospel presence more definitively in the town. On another Sunday I preached about the Lord's Supper and we celebrated that wonderful meal for the first time together. One of the other families continues to accompany us to La Wantza, a small Shuar indigenous community where we teach Bible stories and songs to the kids there on Saturdays. However, one of the families seems reluctant to join us in ministry to our community outside of the Sunday service, so we would ask you to join us in prayer for them that the Lord would give them clarity of mind and heart to seek the Lord and obey His word whatever the cost. Emily has also been talking to another mom with kids in school with our kids. She and her husband are professing believers and Emily has invited them to join us on Sundays but they haven't yet come. We are praying that they would join us. Please also pray that the Lord would provide a storefront for our church gatherings and that the fixed location would make it less confusing for invited friends to find us on Sundays, since we are still rotating houses for the services.

Family Update



Naomi turned 3, Simeon turned 5, and Hosea turned 7

The school year has begun full swing with Matthias and Hosea focused on homeschooling, Simeon and Naomi in the local school to learn Spanish and make some friends, and Joanna learning about the world through trial and error in the way that one year olds do. Emily is doing a fantastic job juggling all of these efforts as mom and teacher as well as so much more around the house

and in the community. Matthias and Hosea enjoy playing soccer in the afternoons, and Matthias will be traveling to play with some friends in a tournament in another city this Saturday. I (David) continue to work on our house construction which has been going well. Unfortunately we have all been sick for the last several weeks with some kind of respiratory infection that we can't seem to shake. We appreciate your prayers for healing!



Off to school



Nothing like ice cream on these 90 degree days we've been having recently



A recent soccer tournament



Currently cutting, bending, and tying rebar for the first floor of the house

We love you all, miss you, and thank you for encouraging us with your prayers, messages, and financial support. May Jesus be glorified in Nangaritza County as we all work together to exalt His great name!

Love in Christ,
the Stroups

www.toeverytribe.org/450350

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