



HOLDEN 3rd QUARTER NEWS '19

We hope the following highlights will help you read find and read what interests you!

Main Topics Main Points
Prayer Requests/Praises



DEAR PARTNER, ENCOURAGER, FRIEND,

COMING? OR GOING?

As you may already know, we made two trips to Wisconsin recently. The first was a medical emergency visit and the second was our regular Home Mission Assignment (HMA). **But those weren't the only trips we made. We've added up the number of times we packed/unpacked our suitcases in the past four months –14 times!** So, now that we are back in Ecuador, we are really grateful to be 'home' and have our bags unpacked for the last time, for a while anyway!



Flying Between Continents

1st Class (Free Upgrade)!

Airport, Airports and More Airports!

Beautiful Sunset →



Finally Home Again!

→ While Flying Back to Quito

SUMMER TRIP TO WISCONSIN

The main purpose of our summer trip was for Sondra to receive a 4-week series of medical treatments. Once she was feeling better, we did our bi-annual shopping and spent some time with supporters and friends. **Friends from our church were kind enough to take us in, care for us, and help us enjoy our time in the Stevens Point-Plover area!**



Sunset at Bukolt Park



Ice-cream at Belt's



Fireworks at Lake Pacawa

WISCONSIN STORMS AND TORNADOS

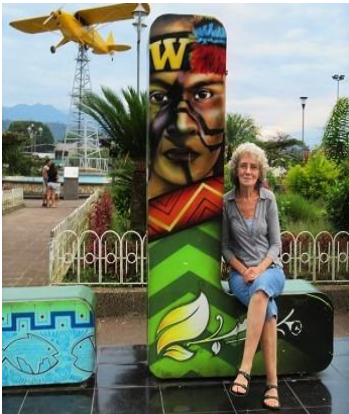
July brought severe weather which left us driving back one evening in high winds, severe lightening, and falling trees. During the next morning's storm, we hunkered down in the basement. We later came upstairs discovering we were without power, including no phone nor internet. For the next 5 days, we used water from the small swimming pool to flush toilets and to wash, and cooked our meals on the gas grill. **The family we stayed with lost only a couple of trees. → Other homes suffered huge damages such as, our friends the Pattens and their 5 children (below). Pray for them as they recover.** If the Lord is leading you to help this family, please contact them at bonniesue@charter.net, or (715) 252-7521



BACK TO ECUADOR

After six weeks in the U.S. we returned to Ecuador for five weeks. Some folks wonder why we didn't just stay in the U.S. through the beginning of October when our originally-planned trip to Wisconsin would end, but there were things 'back home' we needed to attend to. **We had planned to go to Shell (the jungle) for five days, and friends from Wisconsin were coming to visit us in early September.** (Little did we know that the Lord also had other things planned!)

TRIP TO THE JUNGLE'S EDGE - SHELL



As some of you know, Shell (formerly Shell Mera) was the radio base for the five missionaries - Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, and others - who set out to reach the nomadic, spearing, Waorani tribe. In Shell's village park, there is a replica of Nate Saint's 'little yellow piper' plane. ← Sondra Sitting on the Letter 'L' of the Word 'SHELL'.

Miriam, a Reach Beyond missionary nurse, has worked with the Waorani for years. Having become friends with her, she invited us to stay with her for five days to get away from the city. This was arranged before we made our first trip to the U.S. **Enjoying Home-Made Hawaiian Pizza Made by a Venezuelan Street Vendor Whom We Got to Know During Our 4-Day Stay.** →



Miriam not only works with the tribal people in the jungle but also refers them to the local 'Christian Mission Foundation of Health' in Shell (formerly 'Hospital Voz Andes-Oriente' of Reach Beyond). **This day-clinic and day-hospital, now directed and operated by Dr. Wolff, a former doctor with our mission, helps to provide services for the tribal people of the jungle and the ← local people in the village.**

During our stay, Miriam told us about a patient she was taking to an appointment at the day clinic – a Waorani tribal woman who had walked six hours out of the jungle, then rode nine hours in a pick-up truck to be seen at the clinic.

Miriam explained to us that this woman is a widow. **Her husband was speared to death** while trying to share the Gospel with fellow unreached Waorani tribal members. Miriam mentioned that this lady brought some hand-woven baskets with her that she was hoping to sell. So, we decided to purchase the three most expensive baskets knowing that the money would help her with her clinic bills.

We later walked to the clinic to give the money to Miriam. Because Miriam still was busy assisting the patient, we were able to meet the patient as well as her daughter. **When the woman found out that we had purchased her baskets she began speaking to me in Wao (their tribal language).** As she spoke, her daughter Guacaamo interpreted the conversation into Spanish (which was all I needed) but then Miriam interpreted it further into English because Darrell was recording everything on **video.** → <https://youtu.be/2EQnTYxrk>



I continued talking with her daughter, Guacaamo, sharing my thoughts about what happened that day in the jungle when the five missionaries were killed. I had hoped to encourage her because her father lost his life to the end of the spear just as the missionaries did. Instead, **she shared with me her own great story of faith, explaining that her husband is Gilberto Nenquimo, grandson of Mincaye (one of the six killers who speared the missionaries)!**

Later that day, we saw her and her mother again, walking in Shell, and was then introduced to her husband. Photo above: Gilberto, Guacaamo's Mother (patient), Guacaamo, Myself. Link below: MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) 15-minute video of Gilberto and his brother's ministry to members of the Waorani tribe and other tribal groups in the jungle. → <https://youtu.be/2mYWW0Fe4nl>

A WISCONSIN-VENEZUELA CONNECTION

While in Wisconsin this summer, the Erickson Family, from Woodlands Church, approached us about a young man they know who was trying to escape Venezuela and the current crisis there. They had known him from several short-term mission trips to a children's home in which he had lived. Godson, who had been neglected by his mentally-ill mother, was found to have been living on the streets from four until five years old. The authorities then placed him in 'Ninos de La Luz' where he spent the next 13 years of his life. **This Wisconsin family has kept in touch with him and was concerned about his well-being, hoping he could find a way to leave Venezuela.**

A series of conversations led to **the decision that we could assist them with the details in getting him safely from Venezuela to Ecuador.** If he could complete the journey, we agreed to meet him at the Carcelen bus terminal and then take him to Pan de Vida. But Godson arrived one day earlier, on a Sunday, when Pan de Vida was not open. So, with God's help, we took Godson into our home. **As we came to know him better, we decided he would stay with us for the next two weeks.** **We then worked to connect him with various resources** (a social worker at Pan de Vida, the Venezuelan pastor of our church district, our Ecuadorian pastor and his wife, other Venezuelans in our church, and two other bi-cultural couples) **who all would look after him until we returned from our future travels.**



Pastor Julio (Venezuelan), myself, Godson Michael Nwadike McShine - at Carcelen Bus Terminal



Our Pastors (Salomon and Luz - behind man in brown jacket), Godson (back row), and Venezuelans who attend our church.

Please pray for Godson as he starts a new life in Ecuador!

ZIMBAUER'S VISIT TO QUITO AND SURROUNDING AREAS



Our friends, Brad and Dawn, arrived in early September, staying with us for more than a week. Later, at the end of their visit, we would return with them to the U.S. for our HMA. This was their first time out of the U.S. and Dawn's first time flying. They had planned a weekend get-away for us in Banos, Ecuador. Then, after the weekend, we would show them a few communities surrounding Quito, as well as all of our ministries.

*Each day was packed full of activities from early morning until late night. We were very tired at the end of each day yet grateful that we could do so many things together. **It was a busy yet wonderfully exciting time for all of us!***



Six-Hour Bus-Ride Through the Mountains



Tasting Ecuadorian Artisan Brews



Traditional Ecuadorian Meal



La Floresta Hotel Lounge Area



View of Gardens from Hotel Room



Colorful 'Leprechaun' Restaurant



Village Chapel and Monastery



Steak, Shrimp, Potatoes, Salad – Yum!



4-Hour 'Chiva' Tour (2-Story Open-Air Bus)



Waterfalls and River Gorge



Say "Whiskey!" (instead of "Cheese!")



Dawn Bravely Swinging Over Cliff!



"Look! No Hands!"



"Darrell With Wings!"



Peak of Tungurahua Volcano



Having a Blast in Banos!



Sun Setting Over Tungurahua



Surely, we didn't want this weekend to end! Good friends, good food, good times, and good memories! How very blessed we are to have friends who not only cared for us in their home, but treated us to a special weekend away from the big city. **Thank you** Brad and Dawn!

Thank you everyone who provides homes/meals/vehicles for us during our stays in Wisconsin!

Thank you to those who provide other special services - - - use of vehicles, bookkeeping, computer repair, printing of newsletters, mailings, Amazon orders, gifts, free products, etc!

The Lord never ceases to amaze us with the loving care He provides us through our friends, family, and partners!

AFTER THE WEEKEND WE TRAVELED TO: Mitad del Mundo (the Middle of the World - at the equator), Otavalo (the Peguche waterfall and the artisan market 'Plaza de los Ponchos'), the Teleferico (tram up the Pichincha volcano), and Centro Historico (Olde Colonial Quito). Our time with our friends came to a close with a 'despedida' (good-bye meal) at Carmen and Verito's house. **Note: A report of their visit to our ministries to be included in our next newsletter.**



Peguche Waterfall - Otavalo



Teleferico Tram Ride Up Volcano - Quito



Peguche Park - Otavalo



Artisan Brew and Guinea Pig (Cuy) Too!



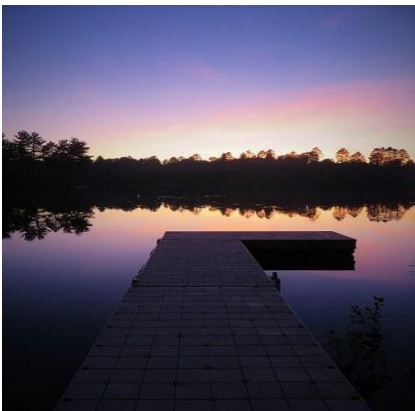
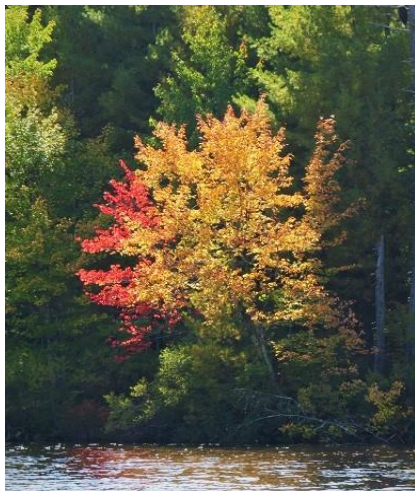
One Last Swing - This Time Over Quito



Farewell with Ecuadorian Friends/Family

BACK TO WISCONSIN AGAIN – TRIP UP NORTH!

One would think that we already had plenty of relaxation time. But, traveling around Ecuador many days from sunrise until late night took the wind out of our sails. During our time with our friends, we had to remind ourselves that the reason we were more tired than they were - was because we are almost 20 years older!! **So, after spending one night in Point, one of our new supporters provided us with a 5-day stay in their cabin in northern Wisconsin!** We were situated on a quiet 'no-wake' lake (no boat motors allowed). There was no internet, no phone signal (except at times at the end of the pier), nor any neighbors across the other side of the lake! - Also, no noisy buses, no traffic, no pollution, and no schedule! We felt like we were in heaven! And the added blessings - our hosts had provided us with BBQ ribs, home-made pumpkin pie with whipped cream, wine, and various other delicacies that we typically can't find in Ecuador. We spent our days barbequing, eating, reading, walking, sitting on the pier, taking pontoon boat rides, taking photos of God's creation, spending time with each other, and getting to know the friendly next-door neighbors who had brought us home-made cookies and invited us for dessert, wine, and a chat at their home. **It's amazing how hospitable folks are!**



"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare His praise? ...Then they believed His promises and sang His praise!"

– Psalm 106: 1,2, and 13.

**THANK YOU, DEAR LORD,
FOR YOUR AMAZING PROVISION
OF BEAUTY AND REST!**

TRIP TO SOUTH-CENTRAL WISCONSIN

After another night in Point, our next stop was a 4-day get-away at Be Still Retreats to celebrate our 33rd wedding anniversary! Most of our stay was rainy and cloudy, but we were still able to enjoy our time at one of their 'cabins' set in the prairie lands far away from noise, so that we could celebrate our special day and prepare for our upcoming church presentations.



Back porch of 'our cabin'.

Special meal of BBQ ribs/squash and 'surprise' quilt made from Darrell's clothing from his former vocations.

Sunset over the meadow.

Red sun disappearing on horizon.

TRAVELING TO CHURCHES

During three Sundays, we engaged in various types of church presentations or visits. Each of our three wonderful 'supporting churches' care for us in their own unique way. At one, we were offered a table in the foyer and were prayed for during the service, at the other, a 10-minute presentation during the service, and at another, a 1-hour presentation with an accompanying lunch. **At each church, the time spent there brought forth much fruit:** over \$500 in sales of items that will bless others in Ecuador, people who took 'prayer photos' home with them reminding them to pray for a particular student in the Extreme Response Zambiza After-School Program, others who signed up to receive our newsletters for the first time, others who signed up to be Special Prayer Partners, an entire congregation who received a brochure about our upcoming service project in 2021, and many folks who asked lots of questions!

One particular blessing is someone from Community Church who is our new 'rope-holder' (or advocate). Her name is Tianna. She is a lively, bouncy, young, soon-to-be-mother, who meets with us when we are in the U.S. and video Skypes with us every other month when we are in Ecuador. She listens to us, encourages us, prays with us, and presents our ministry and prayer requests to her church congregation every few months during the church service. **We pray that every missionary would be blessed to be able to have a 'Tianna' of their own!**

Another special blessing was the opportunity to meet a lady from Colombia who lives part of the year with her daughter and family in Central Wisconsin.

We first became aware of Melba when she sent her Samaritan Ministries financial share to us for our recent medical need. Members send a card and/or note of encouragement along with their monthly share. Melba's was unique in that it was in Spanish. Tina Bush, our stateside assistant who manages our mail and accounts, scanned Melba's card then sent a message to us asking, "I wonder how Melba knows that you speak Spanish?". She could not have known, but we concluded, by her last name, that perhaps she did not know English well. I then wrote her back, in Spanish, asking Tina to print out my return letter and mail it to Melba.





Well - during our stay in Wisconsin, a woman we know from Woodlands Church (Julie) was making baby bibs for us to take back to Pan de Vida for the new Venezuelan mothers. The mother-in-law of Julie's brother then asked where Julie was sending the bibs. When Julie said "with missionaries in Ecuador named Holden", the mother-in-law of Julie's brother (Melba!) exclaimed, "I received a letter from these missionaries written in Spanish!"

← **Melba (in striped sweater in photo) was visiting Julie's family during our visit! So, they all came to our church presentation and later invited us to their home for a traditional, home-cooked Latino meal.** They are planning a family trip to Colombia soon, and hope to visit us in Ecuador sometime in the future. **How incredibly small God's world really is!**

'AT HOME' ON THE RIVER



Our next 'home' was in a house on the river in Wisconsin Rapids. This family invited us to stay in their spacious home during the next 2 ½ weeks. They inherited this beautiful house and land, later realizing that **the Lord wanted them to bless others with it.** - We truly were!



This place provided us with a beautiful, spacious, and tranquil atmosphere in which to prepare our minds and our souls for our return to Ecuador.

We sometimes wonder why the Lord is so good to us. We know He loves us and wants to show His love by providing and caring for us. What we didn't know, was that these tranquil and restful places were provided specifically for us, at this particular time, because He knew that we'd need to be well-rested before returning back to our country of service where recent violent civil unrest had been taking place for 12 days. Our return to Ecuador was now postponed (by our mission) for 8 days! **IN THE END, WE MOVED IN WITH THE ERICKSON FAMILY IN WILD ROSE, WI.**

Authorities say this is the worst civil unrest Ecuador has seen in 60+ years. Although things seem to be more peaceful at present, the U.S. Embassy's advice is to keep diligent watch and to stock up on supplies for possible future outbreaks. - Please continue praying for everyone's safety, here, in Ecuador.

A SPECIAL JOY BEFORE RETURNING TO OUR ECUADOR 'HOME'



The best part of any HMA is to be with family. We were able to spend time with Darrell's sister, our son, (Colin) his wife (Shen), and Darrell - with his father!!!

Thank you, Lord, for these wonderful precious times with family, and for the memories we can take back with us!

PRAISES: for safe travels and sustained health
for the safety of the Patten family, and blessings for those who have pitched in to help them
for the awesome opportunity to be even more closely connected with God's 'End of the Spear Story'
for Godson's safe arrival to Ecuador and the people who are willing to help guide and direct him
for connecting us with a wonderful Christian Colombian family in Wisconsin
for the open door for Darrell to visit his father and connect with him again
for 5 years of missionary service in Ecuador

PRAYER: that the Lord would bestow multiple blessings upon our friends, supporting partners, and family
for a complete recovery from losses and a bright future for the Patten family
for the ministries of Gilberto, Miriam, and Dr. Wolff as they each continue working with tribal people
for Pastor Julio as he works toward planting a church for the Venezuelan immigrants
for our Nazarene Church of Carcelen as it seeks to serve the local Venezuelan refugees this Christmas
for Godson's future and his walk with Christ
for peace for Ecuador **(We'll provide an update in our 4th Quarter Newsletter at the end of the year.)**



DARRELL AND SONDRA HOLDEN



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