

July/August 2023



Cecilia Mandy Isaiah Keith Klarah

The Morris Family to the people of *Ecuador*

MORRISEAMILY2ECUADOR@GMAIL.COM

Dear Pastor & praying friends,

Thank you very much for your prayers and monthly support. We are so very thankful for each one of you. As many of you know, we've had a big transition in leadership as I'm now the lead missionary at the church here in Milagro. The transition has gone well for the most part but as you can imagine it has also had its challenges. With that said, not every challenge is bad, but rather a time that God stretches us towards growth which requires a large amount of faith. One thing I'm certain of is that God is faithful! Through the midst of these challenges, our family was greatly encouraged by visitors from the states. We were able to host our first group of mission trip visitors. Pastor Christensen, his family and 3 staff members came all the way from Cornerstone Baptist Church in Fallbrook, CA. It was a blessing to get to know them. We trust that the Lord had the timing of their visit just right as they were an encouragement to us. We also had our Pastor, Stephen Schwanke and his wife Glenda come and visit us for a few days all the way from Tennessee. We truly enjoyed our time with them as they encouraged us greatly! These visits, as one friend put it, are like revivals for us missionaries. We look forward to having groups visit in the future and would like to leave that invitation open to anyone who is thinking about taking a mission's trip or who is praying about South America as their future field of service.

Previously, I had asked for prayer about revamping our outreach program. The Lord gave some awesome opportunities for outreach these last months. First, towards the beginning of the month, many members of our church went door knocking & handed out invitations. On another occasion we had our church workday where we set up tables to give free bibles and invitations to passerby's. Another opportunity I was given was that I was able to visit the local college here in Milagro with the Cornerstone Baptist Church group. We were able to pass out church invites as well as tracts to many students! We had a very positive response. Many of the students also wanted to take pictures with the Californians which enhanced their enthusiasm to take the tracts and invites. My plan is to have a weekly regular outreach which will include door to door and sidewalk evangelism, to have our regular workday at the end of the month where we hand out invites and bibles and to have a college day outreach once a month. Please pray with us as we introduce these outreach opportunities to the church and that we will see many souls saved!

Here are some exciting developments since our last prayer letter. Mario and Gisselle got saved! Mario, Gisselle, Eric & Dyana were baptized! Please pray for their spiritual growth. Mandy and I were able to do a short bible study with Edgar. He knew John 3:16 by heart and seemed to know other things about the bible but had some confusion on some topics such as eternal security. Please pray for that opportunity to continue and for his desire to learn more. Another thing that happened over the last month is that Darwin has surrendered to full time service. He and his wife have been faithful members of the church and have faithfully been dedicated to our discipleship program for the last 2 years. He believes that the Lord desires him to plant churches in his home country of Venezuela. It has been a blessing to see Darwin and his family grow in their knowledge of the bible and to surrender to do Gods work in Venezuela. We have a plan for his studies and a timeline for his departure. Please pray for Darwin, Henyerly and Ariam as they prepare over the next 2 ½ years to go and plant churches in Venezuela! I'm also grateful for Darwin's help in the church here. God's timing was perfect in all of this! It is amazing to watch God work and provide all that is needed here for this ministry. I'm asking for prayer to find a new meeting place by the end of this year, for our VISA renewal, Spanish fluency, our deaf ministry, & wisdom regarding decisions. Thanks again! We are praying for you as you reach your part of the world for Christ!

-Keith, Mandy, Cecilia, Klarah, & Isaiah Morris

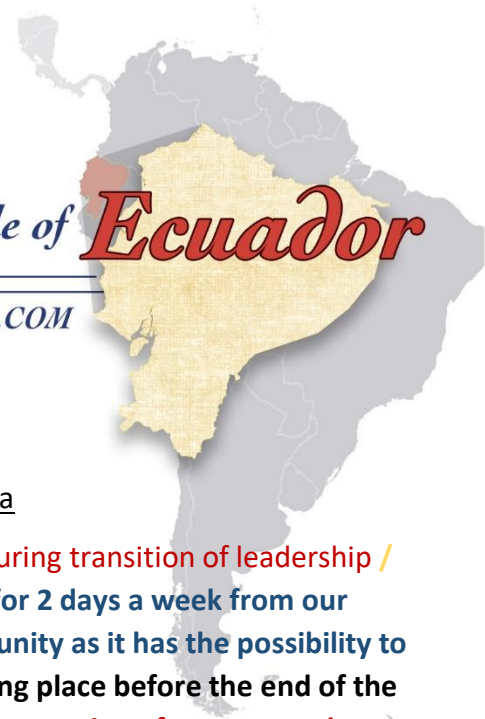
*Sending Church: Spring Meadow Baptist Church · Franklin, TN 37064 · Pastor Stephen Schwanke
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Prayer Requests July / August 2023

For Salvation: Paulette, Allan, Danny's family, Cristian, Jeremy, Alejandro, Elena

Other needs: Spanish fluency, encouragement in this area / **Continued unity during transition of leadership** / We were presented with the opportunity for a teacher for the deaf to come for 2 days a week from our sponsor church, Maranatha Baptist Church in Guayaquil, pray for this opportunity as it has the possibility to grow our deaf ministry exponentially / We need wisdom to find a new meeting place before the end of the year / The Bible conference, introduction of Sunday School discipleship class, **revamping of our outreach program** / Spiritual growth of Edgar & Fernando / **Souls to be saved!**

Praises: Mario & Gisselle were saved, 4 were baptized! / Jose joined the church! / We had awesome visits with groups from the States! / Darwin and his family have surrendered to full time service!! / A group members here are working on learning sign language and are interpreting songs during the service! / We had several outreach opportunities with good responses and one visitor as a result!



A few from the group out door knocking.



Pastor & Mrs. Schwanke and our family during their visit.



Four were baptized!



We enjoyed our time with the Cornerstone Baptist Church Group!



Jose joined the church!