

ALPHA & OMEGA

International Ministries
Ecuador

March 2010 Newsletter

Blessings To You!
Family
&
Friends

Discovering Gods Plan: The Unexpected Marathon.....



It has certainly been a great blessing to be back in Ecuador once again. And with regards to this trip to Ecuador let me ask you this question, **How many of you have had 'a plan' and afterwards you soon found out that God had another plan for you?** In our last newsletter we shared that during the first part of our trip to Ecuador we would be going to the Oriente region where we would be working among the indigenous tribes.

We were not able to visit that region for two reasons. First, torrential rains in the area caused mudslides that made travel unsafe. Second, the Indigenous people and the government were involved in a dispute over oil that was discovered in their territory and they were actively protesting against the government by closing down all of the roads in that region.

What do you do when suddenly your direction is changed? We don't have to worry about that. We have our own God appointed travel agent in Ecuador. Everything that we have done in Ecuador has been arranged through Abner Hernandez. He is the one that was going to introduce us to the Indigenous people in the Oriente region.



The CBC Atlanta Team pictured with Mickey and Suzan and the Church Leaders in Machala



After Soccer Coach filled with Holy Spirit, He invited the CBC Team to minister to his boys



Soccer Coach was baptized in the Holy Spirit



The CBC Atlanta team ministering to a home bible study group in Machala Ecuador.

When that did not materialize, he just said, "Don't worry." He began making phone calls telling pastors, "I have someone I want you to meet." This began a two week long adventure that took us from one side of Ecuador to another. We did not know from one day to the next where we were going to wind up, how long we would be there or if we would have clean clothes to wear when we got there. God said, "I will put you in contact with hundreds who will minister to thousands."

We spent three days with Pastor Domingo teaching in his church in the fishing village of Simon Bolivar. This was our second time to be there and we were greeted with enthusiasm and a hunger for more of the Word.

We traveled to Salinas, a large city on the coast just south of Simon Bolivar. Here we spent three days with Pastor Danny. We had an opportunity to minister in his church and were extended an invitation to present the Identity in Christ seminar in the future.

From here we took a two and a half hour bus ride back to Guayaquil and an additional three and a half hour bus ride to Puerto Viejo where we were met by Pastor Carlos. He took us on another one and a half hour bus ride to a small church in the little country town of Cana. We attended the church service that night and met Pastor Sebastian. After spending the night with Pastor Sebastian and his family we were off again with Pastor Carlos.

We traveled five hours by caravan truck, water taxi, motorcycle taxi, bicycle taxi and cab to a city called Pedrenales. It is north of Quito on the coast and sits exactly on the "0 degree" latitude line. Pastor Carlos recently started a new church and has a vision to minister to the professional class (doctors, lawyers, bankers and professionals) of the city. We spent four days with Pastor Carlos ministering with him as he walked through the town visiting different professionals in their places of business. We were able to pray and minister with them in their offices and work places. God did some awesome work in the hearts and lives of these people as he worked through us to "read their mail." With tears flowing down cheeks and onto ties and fine dresses, his children were freed and loved. All Suzan and I could say is "God, it as all you."

On the road again, we traveled south by bus to Bahia where Pastor Ramos was supposed to help us find the connecting bus that would take us back to Guayaquil. When we got there we were informed that it was not safe for us to travel on that bus after dark and we would be spending the night with the pastor. Another divine connection! We were invited to share in the pastor's church that evening.

The next day we traveled 5 hours to Guayaquil where we stayed only long enough to exchange our dirty clothes for some clean ones and we were off to the city of Millagros to meet with yet another pastor. Pastor David Muthre Ruiz is the President of the Alianza Church Association for that region. We stayed there for three days and were invited to minister in a

Youth Missions Conference, an evening service in the church, and also to a woman's Bible study group.

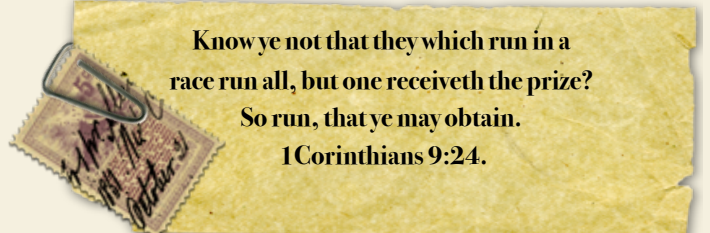
As Suzan and I reflect back on our adventure, we have been truly blessed by God's agenda and the new relationships that were formed because of it.

At this point in time, we were able to continue with our planned agenda. We spent one week in Machala Ecuador on the coast near the Peruvian border ministering with Pastor Alfonso Piedra and his family in the church that we have been working with for three years. We also spent time making the final preparations for the Atlanta CBC School team that would minister there the following week.

The next twelve days were something else! It was the "mission trip marathon" that neither we, the students from CBC Atlanta, nor the people of Ecuador will ever forget! We picked up the students after midnight in Guayaquil and we did not get to their hotel until 5 am. They began ministering that evening. They ministered in three Sunday services in two different towns, conducted a five day Vacation Bible School, and ministered all but one evening in various cell groups from 8:30PM until midnight. The mornings were spent sight seeing. It seemed like there was no rest for the weary, but the rewards were worth it. In every service people were saved, healed and baptized with the Spirit. In the final Sunday service in Machala, the church was literally filled to capacity with people filled with expectation and enthusiasm. God manifested himself in the same powerful manner that He had been manifesting himself in the previous services. Everyone was filled with emotion as the week came to an end. We were blessed, the students were blessed, and the church in Machala was blessed! God is so awesome. The goodbye's were hard, but sweet!

The next day we traveled five hours to Salinas where the students had been invited by our new acquaintance Pastor Danny to share in a couple of meetings and to enjoy the beach.

On the final day, we drove to Guayaquil to do some sightseeing. We had dinner with Abner (our Ecuadorian travel agent) who had arranged one last minute meeting. He said that he had invited a few people that attended the home group that he was involved in to meet with us at six o'clock. We went there, where the students ministered and prayed for two hours. We rushed them to the airport where they caught an 11 o'clock flight back to Atlanta. Their arrival time was 5AM-the same time ten days earlier when they arrived in Machala! It was twelve days running at a marathon pace, but the prize was great!



**ALPHA & OMEGA
INTERNATIONAL
MINISTRIES**

Mickey and Suzan Cartagena
620 Carraway Drive
Graham, North Carolina 27253

Alpha & Omega International Ministries is a 501 c (3) non-profit corporation. When you donate to this ministry, your love offering or donation will be fully tax- deductible.
Email: aoministries@hotmail.com