

Christians Seeking Identity

A Ministry of Alpha & Omega International Ministries

September 2014

Greeting Family & Friends,

The second part of our trip in Ecuador was very exciting and new. I was accompanied by my pastor Kent Coates and Abner Hernandez a close friend from Guayaquil, Ecuador. We traveled into what is referred to as the “oriente” which the eastern part of Ecuador in the northern region which borders Colombia. We flew into Lago Agrio where we met Pastor Sixto who is the president of the pastors association in this region. He introduced us to many other pastors who are working with the indigenous in this region. I have been trying to enter into this region to work among the indigenous for years and “now” was “the time”.

The day we arrived in Lago Agrio we hit the ground running traveling that evening about 2hrs to the nearby small town of Lumbaqui. Here we had the opportunity to share in a church. The next day we met with Javier Hildago the President of the Sports Federation for the entire region. It was interesting to hear how the federation is able to use sports to acquaint the youth with the gospel.

The following day we traveled three and a half hours to meet Mark & Cheryl Shafer, a couple from the United States who are the founders and directors of the Quichua missionary school named Ninawachi which means House of Fire. They had approximately eighty students representing many of the indigenous tribes in the area. I was privileged to share with them God’s

love and grace and how the Lord had brought me to their country as a missionary. *(Teaching the Indigenous Students)*



On our last day with Pastor Sixto we traveled three hours to the village town of Limoncocha where we met a young pastor and his family from *(below)* the Quichua

tribe by the name of Pastor JuanMarco Grefa Cerola. Our time in their home was a blessing. Our guide and traveling companion Abner met



him and his dad many years before when Abner’s dad (who is a pastor) started some churches in the region.

The next day we traveled four hours in a small car over some of the Andes mountain range to the town of Archidona. There we were met by Pastor Samuel Sambonino whom we worked with for

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four days leading services in his church and leading home group meetings.

From there we traveled to Dos Rios where we met Pastor Dorian. Our work with Pastor Dorian turned out to be very special for us. We went out with him for three days doing home visits all day long and leading the home group meetings in the



evenings. Dos Rios (Two rivers) was originally settled by colonial people who were trying to drive out the

(Pastor Kent with a Quichua Family) native indigenous people. It was the Christians missionaries who helped the indigenous people retain their land.

Pastor Dorian took us to meet a missionary pastor who has a heart to reach the un-reached.



(Pastor Dorian is at top left in striped shirt) As we sat with Pastor Pedro *(above)* and his family we listen to him share how the Lord had been very “REAL”

in his life. The people here have very few “Plan B” options for their life circumstances which they face every day. Believing God for your needs is more the way of life (which it should be for all of us). As Pastor Pedro shared you could not help but to hear his passion, his love and his dedication to the vision God had given him, to reach the lost and to reach those that still have not heard the Good News.



Above you see a place on the river which serves as a “flea market” for a lot of the indigenous people. Across this river lies the jungle area where you will find some of those tribes that have very little to do with the “outside world” like the Houarani, Cofanes and even the unreached Taremenanes. It was a great honor to have been able to serve the indigenous people of Ecuador (God’s creation-whom Jesus gave His life for). We shared the Good News of Jesus Christ, His love and His grace. I could not leave without sowing some seeds with some of the indigenous pastors in the form of books that explained the grace of God, the authority that they had as believers and their three part being in the form of the spirit, soul and body. We look forward to returning to hear their testimonies of what the Lord has revealed to them.

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