

Dear Friend

Greetings from Caracas! Yes, I came back from Quito, Ecuador 20 days ago and now I'm back to normal life in Caracas :). These past four months were full with travelling, and now I'm glad to know that I'll be home for a while. Well, let me tell you about the highlights during this last 6 weeks ...

On April 15 I was on my way to Az, to attend our Harvest staff conference and I spent two weeks in the US. We went to Heber for a week and it was wonderful to spend that time with my harvest co-workers from 17 other countries. As always, it was a blessing to hear the reports, share experiences, have fellowship and learn from each others :). God blessed us with a wonderful weather and one afternoon the temperature went down below zero Celsius degree and we got a little bit of snow. It was beautiful and very exciting for most of us that never see snow! Of course, it was nice that this low temperature just lasted a short time :).

This year we took good steps to strengthen our Harvest-DNA work in Latin America and we decided to officially form our Regional Group. With God's help we'll have our first regional meeting next year, around April, in the Dominican Republic. Please, pray for that! The other highlight of the conference was the teaching and discussions we held on the topic "Servanthood Leadership". For five days, during the morning sessions, we had the blessing to hear from Tony Baron and then we had the opportunity to apply all these principles to our life and ministry. After 29 years of Christian walk I thought I had heard enough about the topic, but this time helped me to realized that we never know-practice enough the biblical principles of Servanthood. Now I realize that this is one of the key reasons why we (as individual and as a church) lack great deal of the biblical power and authority that God has already given us to impact the world! We ended that part of our conference washing each other's feet as a symbol of service and it was an awesome and sacred time! It was also a time to renew our commitment to use a style of leadership based on the Cross and the Towel (love, redemptive power, and service), instead of the sword and the shield (power, position, fear, control).



Great to have a little bit of snow at Heber!



Even the children were part of this special time!

After our time at Heber I was able to spend two more days at the office. It was a time to catch up with administrative/office issues and also a time to contact friends and donors. I had the blessing to see many of my friends in Az and also to talk on the phone with many of you from other parts of the US. I'm sorry I missed some of you and I was only able to leave messages on answering machines, but I just wanted to let each one of you know that you are in my

prayers and I always give thanks to God for each one of you and all the support that you provide for me through your friendship, prayers and giving.

After my trip back to Caracas I only had three days to unpack, catch up with family and pack again! Yes, on May 2, I went to Quito, Ecuador, to attend a training coordinated by Chalmers Center. This is a Christian organization that trains the local church in the area of economic development using biblical principles. In the training they use part of our Harvest-DNA material and concepts on Biblical worldview and wholistic ministry. This was a great opportunity to get a first hand experience in the kind of training they offer to church leaders in order to fight poverty and advance the Kingdom of God in our communities. I really liked the training and the tools they offer the church. I appreciate your prayers as we continue exploring the next steps of networking and collaboration in our goals of wholistic ministry and development for our churches and communities.



Group Presentation-The church in the community Group on training - Wonderful group :)

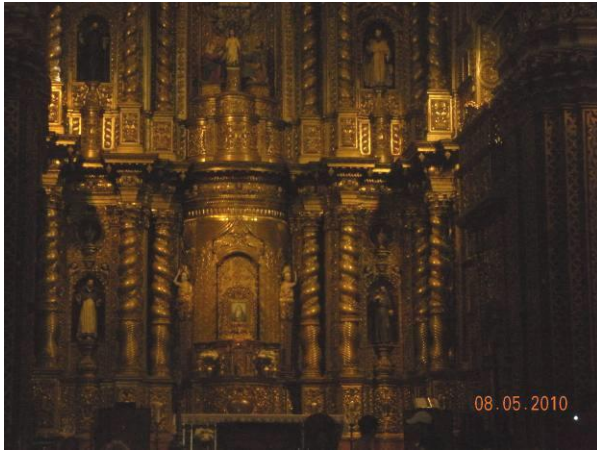
I give thanks to God because this time in Quito was also a great opportunity to meet people from other Christian development organization and enjoy, share and learn from the experience of these believers in Ecuador. After the conference I stayed two more days in order to visit some historical places in Quito and get a view of the city. This was my first visit to Quito and I really liked the city, the people and the food :). I hope you enjoy the pictures ...



Downtown Quito Central Square - Main Cathedral



Museum in the middle of the world



Church La Compañía, main altar covered with gold It is 500 years old, downtown Quito

Back in Venezuela: I praise God because my life is back to normal and I'm not planning to travel out of the country in a near future. That makes it possible for me to be more committed during the months of June-August to my work with my large church Renacer and with the churches in the barrios in Carapita and the children ministry. I praise God because I already started teaching on Thursday evenings at our Bible School (Renacer Church) and I'm also attending our pastor's network meetings on Tuesdays (Pastores en Unidad). I also attended a couple of meetings with our children network and I'm planning to join again the children's work at the schools in the barrios Carapita and San Pablito.

I praise God because the barrio church in Carapita is doing well and they have even experience some noticeable growth in the last two months. Last Sunday they celebrated the baptism of 15 people and this small church was full with more of 150 people. It was a great celebration and the young people presented a great drama that expressed the meaning of baptism. Please, continue to pray for pastor Lugo and the work these believers are doing in the community.



Church Vida Nueva Carapita celebrating Baptisms Pastor Lugo baptized many young people

Concerning me and my family: I praise God because I'm doing well :). Now that I'm settled at home I'm back to physical therapy for my left arm. Two weeks of therapy have been of great help and I'm experiencing much less pain than before. However, it looks that the recovery of normal movement for my left arm and shoulder will take a long time and work. Please, pray for a quick restoration of my arm since all this treatment takes a lot of my time! I also praise God because everyone in my family is doing well. Please, continue to pray that each one of them may growth closer to the Lord

Prayer Request ...

1. For the children work in Carapita, San Pablito and the children network
2. For pastor Lugo, his wife, the Carapita church and the ministry work in the community.
3. For the teaching on Thursday at our Renacer Bible school.
4. For our city pastor's network and the global-national events coordinated to pray for Venezuela: All night prayer Vigil in Caracas this Friday, June 4. Also, National Prayer Gathering in Caracas, at the University Stadium this Saturday, June 5. Yes, God is moving us to pray for Venezuela, to repent and cry out for our nation.
5. For God's guidance concerning teaching engagements and practical work-ministry in the next three months.
6. For my family and for the restoration of my left arm/shoulder.

Dear friend, thanks in advance for your prayers. I'll be also praying for you! May God bless you! Tons of love and hugs for you and your family ...

Xiomara