

# Wheelock Family

Church Planting in Guayaquil, Ecuador



February 2025

Let me start with “Thank you!” There are so many reasons to praise the Lord and you all are part of that. We are so thankful for our supporters.

We have many reasons for praise since our last prayer letter. In September of last year, Ecuador began nationwide power cuts. They started at three or four hours a day and reached up to 14 hours a day at their peak. Due to a lack of infrastructure, political tension with our neighboring countries and a very extreme drought, there just wasn’t enough electricity to go around. The outages went on until December 20, but praise the Lord we were able to have church, even if some days there was no power. As different people contacted us asking about how to pray, we specifically mentioned rain in the mountains and God answered. Although the reservoirs are not full yet, they are full enough to keep the power on for now, and we are thankful for that! Please continue to pray for this rainy season to fill the reservoirs, so that we are ready for the next dry season.

Christmas is always a very special time of year. We love to celebrate with the church family as well as our kids. The church kids and teens did a great job putting on the annual Christmas play, with a great biblical message for the audience. Diana does a great job organizing, writing and directing the play each year. We are thankful for her service in this and many other areas of the church. On the family side, Sam started his new job and wasn’t able to travel “home” for Christmas. Although his first Christmas away was difficult for all of us, we are so thankful for the many Christmases we have been together, and for the technology that allows us to enjoy “being together” with him and the girls still at home.

The foundation that Heather has started with other missionaries is now officially recognized by the Ecuadorian government. It was a long process, but we praise the Lord that it is done. The foundation is working actively to train families for foster care, as well as train the government! Foster care is not very well known or understood here, and it can be quite the process to get judges and other officials to understand what is best for the child. It takes time, effort and lots of prayer to see a cultural shift in orphan care, but I believe we are seeing the beginning of it. God is at work in this area here in Ecuador.

We are pressing forward with plans to have Paco become the assistant pastor and then, Lord willing, the senior pastor of Iglesia Bautista de la Fe. One of the big obstacles to that is getting the church registered with the government, so that they can legally hire him as the pastor. This process is complicated and time consuming, but we have been praying about it for many years. It seems the Lord has opened a door for this process to be completed by the end of this year. We are hopeful and trusting that the Lord will allow that to happen sooner rather than later.

Last year, we started a “test project” with five students who were the first class of a possible Christian school. This school year, it looks like there could be up to 15 students. We are amazed at how the Lord is at work in this ministry. It is almost completely an indigenous effort, with Heather only teaching English. What a joy to see the kids excited about this new opportunity, and to see how the Lord is at work providing teachers and administration. School starts in April, so please be in prayer for the preparation of the new school year.

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now...” Philipians 1:3-5

In Christ’s Service,

*Ken, Heather, Sam, Emily, Sofia & Majo*