



*I have confidence that I'll see the goodness of YAHWEH in the land of the living!
Wait for God – stand tall and let your heart take courage! Yes, wait for YAHWEH!
(Psalm 27:13-14 The Inclusive Bible)*

To our Friends and Family,

As we wait for God's guidance here on the banks of the Colonzo River in Tena, Ecuador, we send you our warmest greetings and pray that your hearts will be filled with joy.

We are writing from our new home – a rustic open-air cabin situated on a 4 hectare (9 acre) cacao farm. Most of our neighbors are native *Kichwas*, many of whom climb the muddy path behind the house to reach their farms each day. We have reliable electricity, installed a week before we moved in, and decent cell phone coverage. We have no hot water, we rely on rain water collected from the roof for all of our household needs, and our living area is open to the elements.



God is present in many ways as we slowly become acquainted with our new setting. Our first month in Ecuador we lived in a different location, Shell. We also spent a week in Quito, the nation's capital, to obtain our missionary visas and meet with leaders of the newly-formed Mennonite denomination, *La Iglesia Cristiana Anabautista Menonita del Ecuador* (the Mennonite Anabaptist Christian Church of Ecuador).



Over the last few weeks we have visited several churches, helped out at an after-school program and an orphanage, met with a couple of indigenous pastors and organizations and toured a cacao orchard planted by a church to support their ministries and pay their bills (photo previous page).



However, we are mostly focused on a ministry of presence. Each day we walk the path that crosses the river next to our home and greet whomever we meet along the way. We feel like our family's first task is to become a familiar face in the neighborhood, building trust and forming new friendships.

As you pray, you can thank God for

- a house to call home
- good health
- Kichwa neighbors
- missionary visas
- a soccer team for Jordan
- a track team for Sierra
- encouragement from Mennonite Mission Network
- indigenous church leaders like Clever, Sophia, Dorian, Doris and Elena



You can ask God for

- Patience as we wait for God's timing
- Our relationship with FEINE, the Council of Indigenous Evangelical Peoples and Organizations, and an upcoming meeting with its new president
- Insight and relevance as we prepare for a women's seminar next month
- Opportunities for Teresa and Naomi to engage with youth their age
- Safe and reliable transportation for our family
- Courage to resist the temptation to try to meet individual's material needs with quick fixes, seeking instead to know people well, understand their context, and collaborate to develop sustainable solutions

We appreciate your partnering with us as together we seek to engage the world with the whole gospel of Jesus Christ. May love abound as we place our hope in Christ.

The Ross Richer Family

YAHWEH guards our leaving and our coming back, now and forever (Psalm 121:8)