

Buege NEWS

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Back to Ecuador

Summer 2021

Greetings dear friends, family and ministry partners! In these strange and changing times, this call on our lives remains; ***“Sing to Yahweh, bless His name; proclaim good news of His salvation from day to day. Recount His glory among the nations, His wondrous deeds among all the peoples (Psalm 96:2-3).”*** May our great God continue to expand your view of Him and your heart for Him.

We appreciate your ongoing prayers, encouragement, friendship and generosity. You’ve hung in there with us and have made a point of keeping us hopeful during times that have been full of uncertainty and distraction. Thanks so much.

There is much to share with you. Here at home (our Jerusalem), in this area of Wisconsin (our Judea & Samaria), and for the first time in over a decade, Ecuador (our “remotest places;” see Acts 1:8), we are happy to give you some highlights. But, my heart is full of joy over you...and I cannot help but ask about how you are doing. Maybe you could shoot me a text or an email, and let me know what’s up with you, your family and ministry? Do you have anything you would like Becky Bruce to share with our Love Nations prayer team? We’d love to serve you, so please let us know.

I hope you will be encouraged by this update! Praise God, for your involvement with us as we continue to flow with our Lord Jesus, in the power & presence of the Holy Spirit. Making disciples!



Part of our Ecuador team (L to R)...Karina (interpreter), Andreina (interpreter), Randy (discipleship trainer), Noris (Ecuador coordinator/interpreter), Don, Eric (missionary to Russia), Daniella (interpreter trainee), pastor Victor (our Ecuadorian director).

Here at home, is our local mission field. Pictured on the left are myself, Bill, Brett, Randy, Tony, Charlie, Marty and Anil. How wonderful it is to journey with Jesus, with men amongst whom we can be ourselves (our identity is in Christ!), and grow together as His disciples & disciplemakers. We meet regularly in Sheboygan. We are all from different churches, and want to help other men become wholehearted followers of Jesus Christ. On the right is a picture of a Kunes RV dealership. The owner of the company has 30+ stores and nearly 2000 employees. I serve as a chaplain for 6 of the Wisconsin stores, encouraging and sharing the gospel with the employees. I look to spend time with everyone during my visits; but of course that varies depending upon what everyone is working on in their jobs. It's been a rich experience, finding out who the existing Christians and "persons of peace" are...and working with them as they learn to be a light for Christ in the workplace. Others have no understanding of who Jesus is or what He has sacrificed for them to make them His...so sharing the gospel every week has been a part of this ministry. I have to admit it...being invited into the world of business as an ambassador for Jesus has been an awesome privilege over the last 10 months. As I get to know folks and become friends, the opportunity to share increases more and more every week; so please pray for me in the months ahead!



I've been so grateful for technology that has allowed me to remain in close contact with key Russian & Ecuadorian partners during this long stretch of closed borders. As I write this, Russia remains closed to us, with new Covid outbreaks taking place even now. It's good to see Russian churches active in sharing the gospel as they distribute food, offer medical treatment, teach English, and take care of the needy. They are courageously persevering, and have truly become the healthy, indigenously-led churches we have been praying they would become. Something good that has come from being kept apart? I believe so! Please pray for them; especially those in Moscow, Kursk, Volgograd, and Buryatia. Meanwhile, my very recent trip to Ecuador was super-encouraging. Sadly, Ecuador suffered severely during the worst days of the Covid pandemic. Previously, I had the privilege of working in Ecuador (particularly in Guayaquil, Jujan, and Portoviejo), between 2004 and 2009. So, it had been 12 years since I was last there. My, how much has changed since those days! We visited with pastor Victor Chong (from Jujan); one of the most visionary leaders I have ever met anywhere. Back in 2005, Victor shared with me and our teams, the heart he had for reaching the lost, making disciples, and planting churches in Ecuador. Since seeing him last time, the Lord has sent Victor to 20 Latin American countries to offer disciplemaking and church planting training. There are now many generations of leaders who have been developed; and several of those are old friends who were just getting started when we met back in '05. We met with 15 churches in May, to find out if the Lord was opening the door to us, bringing Russian nationals in the future. It was a unanimous "yes;" and there was so much joy...the idea that our Ecuadorian friends could be an encouragement to Russian believers who might come to have their own hope renewed for their own country! Please pray for combined teams of Americans & Russians who will work and partner together in Ecuador in the years to come, for God's global glory.





pastor Victor



church gathering



pastor Jose



church gathering

It was a blessing to have Randy Beaudin and Eric McMullen with me as we headed to Ecuador in May to visit the churches, get reacquainted with great friends, and cast potential vision for the future. Pictured here, you will see three of the churches that gathered to meet with us. As pastor Victor gave us the opportunity to share, much enthusiasm was the result as we talked about 3 countries partnering to bring the gospel of Jesus to both Ecuador and Russia. Pastor Jose of Portoviejo, pictured above, leads a church that we helped start many years ago. It has multiplied many times since then...and will be one of the places we bring North Americans and Russians in the future. Even now, Jose is working on constructing 3 rooms within his church building that will be used to house guests such as trainees for Victor's training, and missionaries from North America and Russia. We are hoping to lead a team later this year, and as many as 3 teams in 2022. Lord willing! Please dear friends, join with us in prayer.



Welcome Russian Friends!



church gathering



Ecuador Coat of Arms



Pastor & Mrs.

Coca-Cola

About 15 years ago, I was walking along a dusty road in the town of Jujan, Ecuador with my new friend, pastor Juan. I heard him talking to himself; he was saying, "yes, I am more popular here than Coca-Cola." He explained that the average person in Jujan could not afford to drink Coke...and that he was more popular because everyone knew him and had heard the gospel from him. He brought me to a small piece of land that he acquired and shared that he hoped many believers would worship there one day. I helped him lower a large rock into a hole he had dug; this represented the cornerstone of the church that would be gathered there in the future. Then, we prayed there together. On my recent trip, my most eager desire was to see pastor Juan, a.k.a. pastor Coca-Cola; and yes...he was still known by this name. After a good long brotherly hug, he eagerly grabbed my arm and brought me inside a humble building where there was a pulpit, some pews, shelves with Bibles, and walls covered with children's art. He said, "stand here, brother Don." Then he said, "beneath the floor where you are standing, is the rock you and I placed on our land all those years ago." I just had to praise the Lord Jesus for His incredible faithfulness! The Bible tells us that we are invited into God's process of making disciples and gathering into churches. But the growth all comes from Him. I just marvel at what God has done over the last 12-15 years, since we last ministered in Ecuador. And how strange...that a tiny, poor village like Jujan, could become a center for world evangelization! Only God, right folks? I can't wait for our Russian friends to come here and be rejuvenated!

THANK YOU SO MUCH...for your prayers, encouragement and financial generosity. Please let me know if you have questions about what's going on in this ministry in which you have a major part. Continue please, to pray for God's kingdom to grow as we look forward to Jesus' soon return! Much Love,

Don Buege