

The Delp Detour to Ecuador



Volume 1, Issue 2

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Commissioning Service 2009

Our Dream

For 10 years now, we have been united by a common burden to help the poorest of the poor in a developing country. This burden materialized into a vision laid on both of our hearts to start an orphanage and medical clinic where they are most needed in a country that struggles to provide these basic resources. After getting married in Indiana, God led us to Chicago to prepare educationally for this endeavor. We believe God brought us to the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), a denomination neither of us

were brought up in, and, specifically, Northwest Covenant Church in Mt. Prospect, IL. While in Chicago, Joel has completed his Masters in Divinity and Masters in Business Administration at North Park University and Theological Seminary. Meanwhile, Kim has finished her Bachelors in Nursing at North Park and graduated with her Masters in Nursing to be a Nurse Practitioner. The fact that we feel God has brought us into the ECC has lead us to pursue Covenant World Mission as our



Ultrasound of the soon to be third missionary added to the Delp team

missionary sending organization. To God be Glory that we are now officially accepted as Short Term Missionaries with the Covenant and were commissioned on June 25th, 2009 at the Annual Meeting.

The Short-Term

Although our objective is to go the mission field for the rest of our lives, we first are going to try a short-term stint for 2 years beginning June 2010. We have already signed our lease for an apartment (Praise the LORD!) and set up for intense Spanish language training in our home for the first 6 months in Quito and then spend the remaining year and a half in Ecuador. During this time we desire to build

relationships with the Evangelical Covenant Church of Ecuador and get involved in established ministries with them as well as scoping out potential future sites for the orphanage and clinic. We hope to strengthen our current relationships with our friends Carlos and Karen Feijoo (who are very experienced medical missionaries) as well as develop new relationships for further partnerships in the future of

our ministry. Kim also plans getting some time in at clinics in Ecuador to help out wherever she can and both of us look forward to volunteering at an orphanage to learn as much as we can about orphanages in Ecuador. In the end, during this first short term we will be involved in ministries we are passionate about: compassion, outreach, evangelism, and community development.

What's going on with the Delps???

- We were commissioned as Short-Term Missionaries @ the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church in June of 2009 in Portland, Oregon.
- Kim passed her certification boards to be a Family Nurse Practitioner in early December.
- We are expecting our first baby in early March!
- Praise the Lord we were able to spend time with BOTH sides of the family this year for Christmas and New Years!
- Joel was recently promoted to manage a new Verizon Wireless store in St. Charles, IL.
- We plan to head to Ecuador by mid June 2010, if not sooner!!!
- We will be in language school in Quito for the first 6 months of our short term ministry with having an in-home Spanish tutor to make caring for a newborn easier.

Joel's Story

I was brought up in a very loving home which taught me the importance of God and His love for me and the importance of the church and its ministries. However, I didn't have any close family members that were in full-time ministry, so for whatever reason I never really considered ministry an option for me to pursue. Things changed while in college at Indiana Wesleyan University. There God placed a burden on my heart to help others in need though no specific occupation was evident. It wasn't until I went on a mission trip my Senior Year that God began to speak to me directly about His future plans for me. While in Honduras, Central America, God showed me how I could be used for His work in a country like that. At that point, I felt called to explore things further, so I decided to come back to Honduras for a four month adventure (i.e. I drove a personal truck there for use in Hurricane



The dogs checking out what's in Kim's tummy

disaster relief). While in Honduras this time around, God showed me how the children in our world's developing countries were those most in need of assistance. I saw how there was such little opportunity, nor hope for the future. Then, I began to look at my own life and saw how I had been so blessed with so much opportunity and resources that I decided I needed to spend



Joel playing with children in Uganda on one of his Mission

Kim's Journey

When I was 9 years old, I went on my first mission trip with my parents to Bolivia, South America. It was here that I first began to understand what it meant to be a missionary. The saying on the shirt for that trip was from Isaiah, "whom shall I send and who will go for us? And I said, Here am I. Send me! I remember thinking even then, I wanted to be the one to say "send me!" The next year I was able to go again with my

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

On a trip to Bolivia, are plans meshed and we realized we could work together to start an orphanage and medical clinic. We were married in 2002 and then moved to Chicago for me to finish nursing school and Joel to complete his seminary experience. It has been a long journey for us, and we didn't realize that it would take us this long. We have had difficult experiences and experiences that made us grow, but through it all, we know God is in control. We both feel called to full time overseas ministry with the poorest of

family to Kenya, Africa, here I saw missionary nurses and doctors in action ministering to the poorest of the poor. One doctor in particular, Dr. Ernie Steury was such an example of Christ to me, even at the young age of 10. I saw His leadership and quiet example of Jesus as he ministered to the sick.

I saw that although He could help the sick physically, he also cared so much

the poor. We know that God enables those He calls even if we don't feel like we are equipped to do what He has called us to. I have seen God work in so many ways in my life, orchestrating it for His purpose. Joel and I have seen how God has brought our lives together for His purpose. We praise God for what He has done and what He will do in the future.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose"
Romans 8:28

my life sharing all that I had been blessed with. I said to myself that if I could spend the rest of my life helping children like these and sharing God's love with them, then my life would have a purpose. From this point, many mission trips ensued to Uganda, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, the bush of Alaska, and finally Ecuador. As you probably know, the Lord brought Kim and I together and our future plans fit together perfectly. The only thing left was education; I felt I should be prepared for my life's endeavor. That is what brought me to North Park University and Theological Seminary were I acquired my Masters in Divinity and Masters in Business Administration.

about his patient's spiritual journey and relationship with God. After seeing a surgery and a baby born in Africa, I knew this is what I wanted to do-be a missionary nurse. I knew this is what I *WANTED* to do, but it wasn't until college when I was in a morning church service, that God really placed on my heart through the reading of Isaiah 6 that it was time to answer His call for my life with a shout of "SEND ME!". When Joel and I met, we realized our paths were similar and God seemed to be weaving our lives together.



Kim (age 10) and Dr. Steury



Everyone Needs a Little...MAIL!

Everyone loves to go the mailbox and get "fun mail", open an email, or get a post on Facebook that is specifically for them right? We are no different! We like communication, it makes us feel remembered as I'm sure it does you. So, whether you tweet, blog, instant message, email or write handwritten letters, we want to communicate with you. The good thing for YOU is that you can find US pretty much any way you want to. We are on Facebook, we have TWO blogs now, we have email, instant messenger, SKYPE, and I'm sure soon enough we will be twittering! The best way to get the latest information on our mission plans is through our Covenant Church blog.

We want you to think about what is the best way to communicate with YOU? Do you prefer email, Facebook, blogging, or "fun mail" in the mailbox? The insert that came in the envelope with this letter asks you to let us know what the best way is to communicate with you about our lives and continued plans for the mission field. Don't forget to take just a minute and fill that out and send it to us so we can COMMUNICATE with you! And with that we want to say that we want to hear from YOU! Please keep us up-to-date on what is going on with you and how we can best pray for you. Communication is not a one-way street.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND US!

~Facebook under: Joel Delp and Kim Carter-Delp

~Our Blogs:

<http://blogs.covchurch.org/delp>

<http://www.joelinkim.blogspot.com>

~SKYPE NAME: j3delp

~EMAIL: joel-kim.delp@covchurch.org

~Current Address:

303 N Eastwood Ave
Mt Prospect, IL 60056

~Phone Numbers:

773-505-8783 (Joel)

773-600-0701 (Kim)

Partnering is the way to go

We have learned through education and experience that ministry is most successful when done in partnerships. While serving in Ecuador, we seek to form a partnership with the already strong Evangelical Covenant Church of Ecuador to see how

we can fit in and help out with their already existing ministries. We hope that our dream for the future will also be a dream that others in the Covenant

"It's better to be together than apart"

Church of Ecuador have so that we can see it come to fruition together! There

is an old Covenant saying that goes, "It's better to be together than apart!"



Partners are what we Need

The New Testament Epistles provide a model for missionary service. We see throughout these letters that there are people who are senders (the established Christian churches) and those who are sent (Paul, Stephen, Barnabas, etc.). The work of missionaries is not possible without



having both parties involved; both senders and those who are sent are required. One is not more important than the other because it is a partnership for ministry.

People often comment that they think what we want to do in the future is very admirable; we do NOT feel this way. We feel called to do the work the Lord has for us. The only thing that is commendable is that we are being faithful in following the Lord's leading. But that is the beautiful thing about all of this. We need people just like us that feel called to the ministry that God has for us, just in a different role: that of

being a sender. For our ministry to be possible in Ecuador we need people and churches to partner with us in what God has called us to. Your partnership with us can take many forms: prayer support, financial backing, moral support (i.e. letters and emails of encouragement), and direct assistance (anyone for a trip to Ecuador??). We will need a lot of help. You will see on the next page how much support we are looking to garner before we leave and how you can track our progress in acquiring that support.

Our Contact Info:

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Kim's cell: (773) 600-0701
Our email address:
Joel-Kim.delp@covchurch.org
Skype Name: j3delp



We're on the web

<http://blogs.covchurch.org/delp>

<http://www.joelkim.blogspot.com>

Facebook: Joel Delp & Kim Carter-Delp



Covenant World Mission

<http://www.covchurch.org/mission>

Prayer Points

- 150 partners in ministry for prayer and financial support
- Continued safety through the remainder of Kim's pregnancy and a safe and healthy delivery in early March.
- Preparations over the next few months for our short-term experience such as setting up meetings at churches, finances, obtaining Visas, etc...
- Preparations in Ecuador: for open hearts and minds to partner with us, housing, volunteer options, a church home.
- Relationships: pray for close friends in the U.S. and in Ecuador for support, encouragement and prayer.
- As the time approaches for us to leave, pray that transition to the mission field will be doable for ourselves and our families.
- We are needing to garner 73 more prayer partners (49%) and \$1,954 (44%) in monthly commitments to be at 100% support for Ecuador (as of Feb. 5th 2010)



Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. -Romans 12:4 & 5

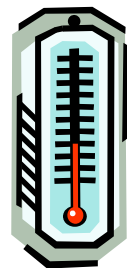
Help Our Thermometers Reach their *Boiling* Point

Each every response we receive helps us reach our boiling point!!!

You ask, "what are Joel & Kim talking about???" Well, we will be tracking how we are doing in reaching our support goals on our Evangelical Covenant Church Blog, which can be found at <http://blogs.covchurch.org/delp>, so you can get updates on our progress by checking this blog on a regular basis.

We are seeking to attain 150 prayer partners for our ministry. That means that we need 150 individuals, couples, or families that are willing to pray for us and our ministry on monthly, weekly, and even daily basis. We feel this is the most crucial support that we need and is why we had already begun seeking prayer supporters almost one year ago. Would you be willing to lift us and our ministry up to the Lord in prayer on a regular basis? If so, please fill out the included response card and send it in using the included envelope.

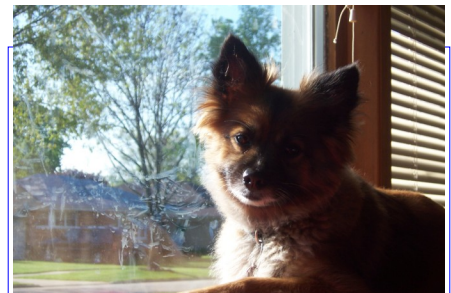
There is also the practical need of finances. Unfortunately, as you know, money is required to make the world go round and so is the case for any ministry endeavor. From Covenant World Mission, we received a budget of \$106,000 for our two year term, which equates to \$4,417 in monthly support for the two year period. That sounds like a lot to us, but we are giving it up to the Lord and are



confident that in knowing the Lord has called us to this work that He will provide. Just so you know, each donation is tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt for every contribution.

Our budget is comprised of ministry, travel, housing, transportation, and preparation (language school, etc.) expenses. A portion also goes to our salary, insurance, and social security. Would you be interested in becoming one of our partners in ministry from a financial aspect? Could you commit to giving \$200, \$100, \$75, or \$50 per month? We need support in all sizes and amounts and every single gift will help us in reaching our boiling point! Just so you know, your donations will soon be able to be received through the internet or you can choose to have the funds automatically withdrawn from a bank account by filling out an Electronic Funds Transfer document. This can be downloaded from our Covenant Church blog or we can send it to you in the mail or over email. If you are interested in supporting us financially, please fill out the included response card and send it in using the envelope. Any gifts you send in a check form should have a note with it saying that it is for Joel & Kim Delp Short Term Ministry. They should be sent to:

Covenant World Mission, Attn: Joel & Kim Delp STM Support, 5101 N. Francisco Ave., Chicago, IL 60625.



HIREQ (pronounced hear-eck) and PATAH say "HI"



We translated that of course!