



# Merry Christmas from Ecuador



*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:10,11*

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## UPRISING IN ECUADOR

Psalms 5:11 says

**But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.**

On September 30th, we trusted in the word of God and God's promises like these as we experienced events like none other in our lives. On that day, the national police force decided to strike over disagreements on a reduction of benefits. What this meant was there was no police working in the country, the national congress was forced to be suspended, highways were blocked by protestors, and both major airports were shut down. When it was all said and done, the president had been accosted when trying to confront the protestors and had to flee for his life. Some say this was an attempt at a coup. Though that is uncertain as many of these events are

somewhat typical for large protests in Ecuador, chaos was definitely apparent. The good thing was that after a couple of days (in which we didn't leave our apartment) order was restored. *We thank you so much for your prayers during this somewhat stressful time for us. Please continue to pray for the country of Ecuador, the government, the political process and that peace will continue.*

As evidence that order was restored, we were able to continue with our plans for travel within a week of these events. We ended up traveling for most of the month of October, visiting two different language schools in different parts of the country. Our first trip was to the historic and cultural capital of Ecuador, the southern city of Cuenca. During this trip we were also able to stop by the Incan Ruins of Ingapirca as well the beautiful town of Baños. Our second trip was to the coastal city of Manta where we also studied for a week. Simeon loved the sand! A highlight from this



trip was a visit to La Isla Corazon ("Heart Island") with its natural wonders. There the local fisherman work to conserve the mangroves. Another part of this trip was attending the Annual Pastors' Retreat at the Covenant Camp in Santo Domingo. Please check our blog for lots of pictures and more information about these trips.

These first six months have been a wonderful time of preparation for ministry as we have been able to devote our time fully to language study — okay, we were also able to attend ten different Covenant churches and Joel preached three times, so we were almost fully devoted to just language study! That's not to say we haven't had down times also, especially difficulties with the language.

We will be traveling to the States for the holidays and then when we return in January, we will officially begin our full-time ministry.

## 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 sometimes struggles to provide these basic resources. We believe God brought us to the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), a denomination neither of us were brought up in. While in Chicago, Joel has completed his Masters in Divinity and Masters in Business Administration at North Park University and Theological Seminary. Meanwhile, Kim 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 Covenant World Mission as our missionary sending organization.*

## RELATIONSHIPS

Our good relationship with IPEE (the Covenant Church of Ecuador) has continued. Recently, we just celebrated Thanksgiving here and invited ALL of the office staff of the IPEE office over. It was a blast! We had 15 people stuffed in our little apartment for the traditional Thanksgiving food. It was very neat that we were the only "gringos" there and Spanish



was the only language spoken. So I guess we are making some progress with the language.

We are very excited to officially begin our ministry in January as they are finalizing their plans for us right now.

### Travel to the U.S.

- December 22—30: Goshen, IN
- December. 30 — January 7: Hartford City, IN
- January 7 — 9: Chicago, IL
- January 8: Dinner at Northwest Covenant Church (Mt. Prospect, IL)
- January 9: Speaking at NWCC
- January 9: Fly back to Quito
- We will begin our full-time ministry in Ecuador in January 2011

**The Evangelical  
Covenant Church**

**Where you can  
find us!**

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**WE'RE ALSO ON FACEBOOK  
AT  
JOEL DELP AND  
KIM CARTER DELP**

*"God longs for a heart that celebrates his presence  
by responding to him and caring for others."*

-Darrel L. Bock, NIV Application Commentary - Luke



The Covenant  
Camp Logo

We are very social people and we love to be in contact with our family, friends, well basically YOU! Just because we moved out of the country doesn't mean YOU get off the hook in keeping in touch. The BEST way to stay up-to-date with us is by checking our TWO blogs which are:

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

OR

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

**Our new snail mail address in Ecuador is:**

*(We would love to receive cards, letters or packages, but...)  
(Please don't send anything over 8 lbs. — it costs us \$200 to get it out of customs)*

**Casilla 17-11-6068  
Quito, Ecuador  
South America**

Our U.S. phone number is:

**(773) 505-8783**

Please note that the Covenant World Mission office has moved. If you send in support through U.S. Postal Mail, please begin sending support to:

**Covenant World Mission  
Joel and Kim Delp STM Support  
8303 W. Higgins Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60631-2941**



- Simeon getting ready to dig into some turkey

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Delp's!!!

Our prayer for you all in this Christmas Season is that it will be a time for reflecting on and rejoicing in the birth of our Savior and a time for celebrating with family and friends.

*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!!!*

We are so thankful for you all and your support and prayers for us in this last year! You are a true blessing for us !!!



The family visiting the Ruins of Ingapirca

## Simeon's Section



Simeon enjoying the mangroves on Isla Corazon



Simeon loves the sand, even eating it!!!

**Simeon says:**

I just recently hit some milestones:

- I started crawling and pulling myself up to a standing position
- I have **THREE** teeth
- I like saying "mama" and "dada" and clapping when they say "aplausu" (applause)
- The doctor says I am developmentally ahead of schedule
- You can pray for me because I am a little small for my age: I am on the bottom of the growth chart & head circumference chart & below the chart for weight

## PRAYER REQUESTS

—As we transition into ministry, please pray for everything, but especially the difficulties with Spanish

- Peace and safety in Ecuador
- Formation of strong relationships with the members of the national church
- Simeon's growth—he's way under the growth curve
- Strength and skill in Spanish acquisition
- Confidence and ability in sharing the love of Jesus with our Spanish instructor
- Strength and encouragement as we miss our families & friends

— Sale of our house in Marion, IN

### Answered Prayer

- 101% Financially Supported
- 110% Prayer Support
- Safety amidst the difficulty in Ecuador
- Excellent Spanish teachers and loving care from our babysitters during Spanish
- New formed relationships with our new friends and colleagues in Quito