



## ECUADOR: FROM ACORNS TO OAK TREES

June 2013

**Dear Friends,**

### For the love of Trees

I have always loved trees! Especially oak trees. As a kid, I collected, pressed, traced and treasured their marvelously shaped leaves. But most intriguing to me was the acorn: soft and roundish with a bumpy little hat on top. I'll never forget the year a tiny sprout appeared as I gave the acorn the needed water, sunlight and soil in which to grow. Imagine! A small acorn with the hope of becoming a mighty oak. It doesn't happen overnight, but ***it does happen everyday around the world.***



International Childcare Ministries (ICCM) is all about helping acorns become oaks. Part of my job as a missionary is serving as ICCM's Regional Coordinator for Latin America. I have the privilege of visiting program sites, working with dedicated, loving leaders and meeting the sponsored children themselves.

A trip to Ecuador, last month, brought an additional joy that thrilled my heart and I believe will thrill yours too. Meet three of our ICCM "oaks" that many years ago were little

"acorns":

### Damian, Estefania and Paul

These youth are just three of many young adults I met in Quito who are not only pursuing higher education and becoming professionals, but giving back of themselves as well. (You can read Damian's story at <http://fmcusa.org/fmwm/2013/06/11/iccm-planted-the-seeds/>). The nurturing they received through ICCM has made a big difference in their lives. Special emphasis was placed on academic and spiritual growth, as well as physical, social and emotional development. Many who have graduated from the program are now helpers and leaders for the next generation of sponsored children. And they are part of a core group of young people who are planting a church in downtown Quito, in a strategic university district.

During the same visit, Latin America Area Director Dr. Delia Nuesch-Oliver and Dr. Allison Coventry led excellent seminars for our Free Methodist churches, which included ICCM teens and alumni. A highlight was the invitation for Dr. Delia to speak as a guest lecturer on the topic of leadership principles at the School of



Business at a secular university.

Danilo, an emerging FM leader who attends the university, organized the event with the new church plant in mind. Danilo desires to reach his friends, his fellow classmates and his university *for Jesus!* The students were so receptive to a Christian professor sharing wisdom about leadership from a global perspective that Dr. Delia has been invited back! Click here for more details from Dr. Delia:

<http://www.latinamericaarea.com/newsmedia/latest-news/96-dreaming-outside-the-box-quito-ecuador>.

### Future Plans for Tree Growing!

I return to Ecuador July 3-8 to continue ICCM program evaluation and supervision, staff leadership development, and vision casting. Pastor Libni Gasca of Colombia, who oversees FM ministry in Ecuador, is working with ICCM in favor of the children, the churches and the communities who need Jesus. His frequent visits, wise counsel and encouragement are a tremendous asset. You can learn more about Pastor Libni and the FM church in Colombia at



<http://latinamericaarea.com/newsmedia/latest-news/84-introducing-pastor-libni-gasca-and-the-colombia-ecuador-mission-districts> and more about their orphanage at: <http://www.childrensoutreachministries.org>

In the July-September 2013 issue of World Mission People magazine, you'll be able to read more about "Growing Young Leaders."

**May the Lord's hand of blessing be upon our ICCM "acorns" and "oaks" in Quito and throughout Latin America, as well as upon our wonderful teams of workers and sponsors. Thank you for your prayers on their behalf.**

Yours for reaching Latin America,  
Kay Stotts-Godoy