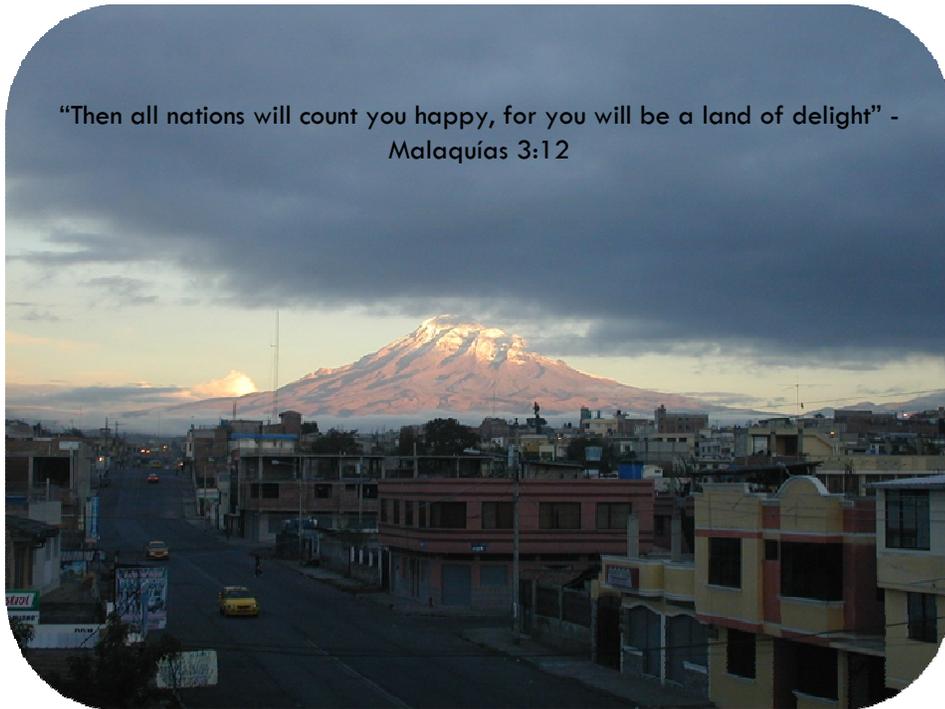


RIOBAMBA: "LAND OF DELIGHT"

"Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight" -
Malaquías 3:12



01/02/2012

OUR ARRIVAL

We arrived in Quito on January 14th, on Luz Marina's birthday. César and Patricia Moya greeted us at the airport and took us to their house where we visited a short time. Soon César took us in his car to Riobamba and to the apartment where we are living. During the trip César informed us about the Ecuadorian context and about the model which has evolved for developing the Mennonite church in Ecuador.

On Sunday, January 16, César and Patricia Moya celebrated our installation as pastors of the Mennonite Christian Community of Riobamba.

We recognize and value the excellent work that has been done by the pastors Daniel Vinicio Escobar y Beatriz Beltrán. This couple has sustained the church since the departure of Don and Jan Rheinheimer. We also value the excellent contribution and ministry developed by Rosembert Ipuz.



We thank the Mennonite Christian Community of Riobamba for their welcome and acceptance of what we have to offer. They are a wonderful community with expectations and needs typical of a precious church that is in formation.

We encountered a delightful, loving and friendly community with much potential and possibility of development. The majority of the people are professional people with an active life in their professions and businesses, and with good social relations.

From January 26 to February 6 we accompanied the group of persons who came from Central Plains Conference: Don and Shirley Kempf, Joe Jr. and Lynn Walks Along, Roger Farmer, Ken Egli and Alyssa Rodríguez. For us it was a very good time during which we learned about various cultural contexts of the indigenous and mestizo peoples of Ecuador.



Cultural dances



History of people from 1000 years ago



Community
life

RIOBAMBA: "LAND OF DELIGHT"

THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR PASTORAL MINISTRY

WORSHIP AND MINISTRY

We accompanied the worship services of the church. We initiated contacts with people of the church and the community surrounding our apartment and are working with discipleship development with married couples in the church. We have had some difficulty with the people's lack of free time for personal encounters. We have initiated Bible studies in our apartment with the goal of stimulating the growth and strengthening the devotional life of these persons.

On February 12 we held the first dedication of infants. The grandparents of the baby Carlos Jarell Oleas Noriega encouraged the parents Carlos and Johanna to present their baby to the Lord and receive the blessing of the community. It was a very special moment for all.



It excites us to see former families of the church returning to the community and to see their openness to following Jesus in their lives together with us in mutual sharing.

On March 2, we will hold the first meeting of married couples in a restaurant in the city. We hope to have 10 couples from the church and 5 guest couples.

Thanks to the efforts of Raúl Escobar, a drum, electric guitar, bass guitar, an electric piano, and a microphone have been donated for the use of the community. Now we just need persons to use these instruments in the church and to provide lessons on them for people in the community.

We ask for your prayers that God will open doors, especially with new personal contacts, and that we will be able to find another location that will be larger and more adequate for the development of the Community Christian Mennonite Church of Riobamba.

With appreciation and love,

Luz Marina and José William Valencia

