



Easons in Ecuador - May 2019

Well, it's been a while. Instead of trying to fill you in on everything that's been happening since we sent out our last newsletter, we're going to hit some of the highlights and let you know what we're up to now in our life and ministry.



Our Family

We've been doing pretty well. We just got back from a much-needed and long-overdue weekend vacation (our first one ever with just the four of us) in the beach town of Ballenita and we're now getting ready to welcome our summer teams.

The biggest news for our family since our last newsletter is that we were able to move into a new house. We'd been praying about this for a while, because our kids are getting bigger and didn't have an outdoor space to play. We've also been housing interns since last May, and didn't have a place for them to stay without kicking Emery out of his room.

God has provided a house with plenty of space. Not only that, but the previous tenants (Christian medical professionals from the Seattle area) offered to pay the difference in rent between our old apartment and the house. They also gave us all of their furniture; our previous place was furnished. This has been a HUGE blessing.



Our Kids

Both of our kids just started back to school. Emery is now eight years old and in 4to de básica (3rd grade in the U.S.). He's our little scientist; he loves to create things and experiment. Selah is three and in Inicial 1 (early Pre-K). She's communicating really well now in both English and Spanish and has a huge imagination. They both love school and we're glad for a bit of sanity after a three-month "summer" break.

Our Good Boy

We've also added a new member to the family now that we have some outdoor space. We got Titus through some friends from church. His previous humans got him as a puppy, but were unable to continue to care for him once he got bigger. He's around a year old and is a mix of Siberian Husky, Samoyed, and/or Golden Retriever (depending on which vet we ask). He's good with the kids and super affectionate. He loves to eat people food and destroy laundry and potted plants.





Bonsai

We were able to add 14 kids to the program in December. We're now working with 34 kids from 16 families. The new kids have adjusted well and we're getting to know their parents through home visits. If you're interested in supporting Bonsai through child sponsorship, you can find out more [here](#).

We've added a new teacher, Joselyne, and created a third class. We also have almost 50 local high school students (12-13 per day) that will be coming to help us with homework and tutoring starting next week.



Ministry Center

While we haven't officially launched the project yet, we've had a local architecture and construction firm design a Bonsai Ministry Center that will allow us to provide after-school care to 120 children and house short-term mission teams. We've found a piece of property and already have more than 50% of what we need to purchase it. Let us know if you'd like more information.



Our Church

The biggest change since our last newsletter has been our involvement with our local church, Iglesia Bíblica Bautista de Manta. Will is now serving as one of three interim pastors at the church and is preaching about twice a month. We've also started leading the church's middle and high school youth program.

Prayer Needs

We'd appreciate your prayers for the following:

1. Balancing our time during team season - Hosting teams can be very helpful, but it also represents a big increase in our workload. Pray that we'd be wise in our time management as we balance teams with normal ministry and family responsibilities.
2. Focusing on our own family - As we try to serve other families and are presented with other people's needs, it can be difficult to protect time for our own family. It can also be tough for our kids to see us showing love and attention to other children. We try to be intentional about our own family, but this is still difficult to manage well at times. Pray for us in this.
3. Pray for our church here - We're in a time of transition, and change isn't easy. Pray for wisdom for the leaders of IBBM, for patience from the congregation, and for God to build and work powerfully through His church.

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter, and thank you for your continued prayers and support. We love you all.

The Eason Family



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