



It Is No Accident

On August 20th, we were participating in a Dedication Service, held in the beautiful Torrey-Gray Auditorium at Moody Bible Institute (MBI). Dr. Paul Nyquist, the president of MBI, encouraged the incoming students with the following words: *"It is no accident that you are here. You have been seeking God's will about where you should study.... The faculty and staff here at MBI have been praying for direction about which applicants to accept.... God has brought you here for a purpose."*

We began to reflect on the many people and circumstances God had used to lead Nathanael to study at the Chicago campus of MBI. Dr. Nyquist's words were another confirmation that Nathanael is right where God wants him to be. It was also no accident that we, as parents, were there to hear those encouraging words.

As we ponder the amazing way God has confirmed His will for Nathanael to study at MBI, we are reminded of the many ways God has confirmed His will for us to serve in Ecuador. This week Terri

received a message from a lady who has attended her Pura Vida classes saying she was looking forward to Terri's return. Last week, Jeff received a message from a pastor in Loja saying he had been praying for us and was wondering how our time in the U.S. was going. It has been a pleasure to stay in touch with many of our friends in Ecuador through email, Facebook and Skype. It touches our heart to read or hear phrases like "looking forward to your return" or "can't wait for you to get back." God has blessed us with special friends and opportunities to impact lives for His kingdom, and we look forward to continuing the ministry to which He has called us in Ecuador.

God has also blessed us with an amazing team of ministry partners. We are thankful for the great visits we have had with some of you. Unfortunately, this home assignment had to be short, and we are sad we won't have time to visit everyone.

As we go through this challenging transition – for Nathanael, to life on a new campus in a new city... for us, preparing to return to Ecuador without him – it comforts us to know it is all part of God's plan. We are reminded of Psalm 48:14 (ESV): *"... our God ... will guide us forever."* We would appreciate your prayers as we make these adjustments. It won't be easy, but we know it will be a great adventure.

Following Jesus through the transition,

Jeff & Terri



Family photo taken at Moody Bible Institute

*Note:
Please see page two for financial
update and support needs*

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Financial Update

We are glad to report that our overall balance with SIM is positive. However, due to circumstances beyond their control, some of our supporters have had to discontinue financial support.

In our support review with the mission a couple of weeks ago, we discovered our monthly support budget has increased significantly compared to what it was when we left for the field.

In order to cover the shortfall and the increased budget mentioned above, **we need to raise a total of over \$1,000 of monthly support.** Also, to replenish our reserve fund and cover other ministry expenses, we need to raise **\$11,300 one-time support.** Please pray with us for God's provision.

You can invest online by clicking the link below:

[Jeff and Terri Rains / Partner With Us](#)

If you would rather mail a check, the above webpage has information on how to do that as well as a toll-free number to call.

To maintain our resident visas, **we need return to Ecuador on September 16th.** and SIM asked us to report the total of our support commitments on September 9th. If you would like to partner with us through monthly or one-time financial support, could you do us the favor of letting us know right away (see contact information below)? It will encourage us tremendously and help us keep track of our progress in reaching our goals. Thank you!

Our contact information:

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Leading worship at a rural house church

Highlights from our first term in Loja

- Leading a 12-month study on *Love & Respect* for the couples at our church. This gave us the opportunity to develop relationships and impact the lives of several of the couples.
- Two academic years of Pura Vida classes, personal coaching and the beginning of the Pura Vida Lojana blog: www.puravidalojana.org
- Participating in three different ongoing radio programs and the development of the Pura Vida 3-4 minute radio spot aired regularly on the station *Ondas de Esperanza* (Radio Hope).
- Three Pura Vida conferences in and around the capital city: Quito, Sangolquí and San Rafael.
- Trips to do evangelism, discipleship and training in rural areas of the Loja and Zamora-Chinchiipe provinces.
- Seven months of teaching a leadership training course at *Comunidad Cristiana de Chontacruz*.
- Learning about life and ministry in Loja ... getting to know many believers and witness first-hand how God is transforming lives ... sharing the good news with many who don't yet have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Family Update

You have already heard Nathanael's big news 😊

Kaitlyn is excited to have her drivers permit. Unfortunately, she won't be able to get her license before we return to Ecuador, but is glad she could start practicing in the U.S. rather than Ecuador.

Abby is having a great time getting together with friends she hasn't seen in a long time in several states. She loves to play piano and guitar.



Youth drama ministry