



### *Let Us Not Become Weary*

It was May 12<sup>th</sup>, and we were at the Vespers service in the Torrey-Gray auditorium at Moody Bible Institute. We had just arrived in Chicago and were thrilled to see Nathanael for the first time since January 2016. It inspired us to hear testimonies from many of the students and a timely challenge by the president, Dr. Paul Nyquist. We enjoyed a great time of fellowship as we all anticipated the graduation ceremony the next day.

The following morning, there was much activity and excitement at The Moody Church. The sanctuary was filled with graduating students, family and friends. We all had one thing in common... we were celebrating a great milestone in life of those students wearing caps and gowns. As you can imagine, during that ceremony, we heard many shouts of encouragement as students received their diplomas. We were thrilled to hear Nathanael's name and see him walk across the stage to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree in Applied Linguistics. We shouted out a few times ourselves, as Nathanael and other young people we know from Ecuador were recognized.



*Our first college graduate!*

Someone commented to Nathanael, "That diploma represents a lot of diligence and perseverance." With a look of appreciation, his response was an enthusiastic, "Indeed, it does!" We have had the opportunity to congratulate a number of 2017 college graduates, and they have all agreed with Nathanael.

As we reflected on the amount of time, energy and resources that a student must invest before finally reaching that milestone of receiving his/her diploma, it made us think of the ministry God has called us to in Loja, Ecuador. We often get frustrated by the slow progress in ministry. However, when we witness spiritual birth or a believer begins to make disciples of their own, God reminds us that it is worth all the effort.

Galatians 6:9 exhorts us: "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*" Some of you have heard us share about Marco and Auria, who were baptized just before we began our home assignment. Their story illustrates the truth above well. Those of you who haven't already heard how God is working in their lives can read about it at [www.jeffandterri.org](http://www.jeffandterri.org).

We have been grateful for opportunities to visit with family and ministry partners during the last two months. We look forward to visiting more of you before we return to Ecuador on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Please pray that we will raise the additional financial support we need before that date. Thank you!

Your partners in the harvest,

*Jeff & Terri*

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## Family Highlights

- On February 25<sup>th</sup>, we received the shocking news that Jeff had experienced a **retinal detachment**. This introduced a lot of uncertainty into our lives. We wondered if we would have to postpone our home assignment. At the last minute, Jeff got a green light from the retina specialist in Quito to travel on March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- After a few days in the U.S., Jeff began to have problems again, and had to have a more **complicated surgery** done on March 20<sup>th</sup>. So the uncertainty continues. He has to be very careful as the eye heals, which is a very long process. Even after two months, it is still sore and weak. He would appreciate your prayers for healing and for patience.
- On May 11<sup>th</sup>, we took **Kaitlyn** to visit Asbury University, which will be her new home in August. She is more very excited, especially about the Equine Facilitated Wellness degree program.
- As we shared above, **Nathanael** graduated from Moody Bible Institute on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for him as he prepares to continue his studies at Canada Institute of Linguistics in Langley, BC, in August.
- **Abby** has really enjoyed seeing good friends in AL, TN and NC. Also, all the talk about graduating from college and entering college has motivated Abby to look into possibilities for the future. We are glad she is taking initiative and has some good ideas.

## Ministry Highlights

- It encourages us to hear from **people in Loja** and know that we are missed there. Please pray for the people of our church and others God has brought into our lives and allowed us to minister to.
- We had a very **uplifting debrief** at the SIM USA headquarters the last week of March.
- The beginning of our **home assignment** has been very challenging, but it has been a joy to share with our ministry partners in person how God is transforming lives in Ecuador. It has also been a pleasure to catch up on what is going on in your lives. So far, we have visited individuals and churches in Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina and Indiana. Thank you for ministering to us in so many ways!
- We are especially grateful for your **financial support** during the past couple of months, with all the travel we have done and the unexpected expenses related to Jeff's eye surgery.

## Financial Update

During our debrief at the SIM office, our support needs were reviewed and updated. Our monthly support need has increased since our last home assignment. Also, several ministry partners have had to discontinue support during this term, because of changes in their financial situation. A couple have gone home to be with the Lord. As a result, we need to raise an **additional \$1,600 in monthly support** before returning to Ecuador on September 7<sup>th</sup>. By faith, we bought round trip tickets, in order to be back in time for next semester at the university.

If we can increase our monthly support by \$120 each week, we will meet our goal. Please pray that we will soon discover the ministry partners God has in mind to provide this additional support.

**If you would like to partner with us in ministry** or would like more information, you can...

- Connect with us by  
Cell phone: 803-357-2134  
Email: [jeff.rains@sim.org](mailto:jeff.rains@sim.org)  
Skype: jeffandterri  
Facebook: jeffandterri.rains

*Please get in touch with us in this way, even if you use one of the options below, since it will help us stay up to date on our support level. Thanks!*

- Invest online by using on the following link:  
[Jeff and Terri – Partner With Us](#)
- To print out and mail a response form:  
[Print Response Form](#)  
[Print Envelope](#)



*An exciting day for Auria, Marco and us.  
You can read about it at [www.jeffandterri.org](http://www.jeffandterri.org)*