



Praises:

- Camilla accepted Christ as her Savior! The Lord is gracious! Always my favorite part of what the Lord is doing!
- My parents' move went really well and I am so thankful for each step.
- Travel Stateside went almost perfect. Praise the Lord for all the travel mercies and protection.
- We were able to visit 2 churches, 25 different families and our family. It was one of the busiest 3 weeks ever but such a blessing. Sometimes I forget how many people love us and how many we love.
- We had a wonderful family stay in our home here in Ecuador while we were in the States.
- Our wonderful team is faithful and trustworthy.
- The Lord continues to provide through His saints.
- The youth group retreat was a blessing.
- Our baby turned 14 years old.
- The kids returned to school in person and many are doing well.
- The center continues to grow and share the Lord.
- The Lord is love and His love is eternal – it has no beginning nor end. If that isn't a praise, I don't know what is!

Prayer Requests:

- I am praying for a revival in the whole sector of Quito that we work in.
- Another trip to the States at the end of April through the middle of June. **We are in need of a car for 7 weeks, if possible.**
- Pray for all the families at the center as we add more kids in the next two weeks.
- Discernment on how the Lord wants us to help. We want to teach people to fish not just give fish.
- Our love would grow deeper and deeper in Jesus that it would flow into others.
- The government is working on some of the final papers for the foundation.
- Possibly another location in the historical center.
- Wisdom in the day to day.
- That all of us always remember that it is all about the Lord. It is all done by Him and through Him and to Him!

Samantha's Corner



Samantha turned 14 on February 18th. She was super blessed this year to celebrate on both continents that she belongs to. I think it was a sweet gift from the Lord since the last two years have been so rough on celebrations. Here in Ecuador, we got to spend a weekend camping with friends. Her wonderful youth leaders (our friends) gave her a blow gun from the Cofan tribe that Ron has lived with most of his life. Samantha was thrilled! Stateside,

we took her to her favorite place – The Dallas World Aquarium. That evening, the Gonzales’ threw Samantha a b-day party. It was such a sweet night with dear friends. She felt very loved from people in both countries. While in Ecuador, her youth group celebrated Purim (Hebrew holiday) and Samantha went as Boba Fet. This past weekend was the yearly 4 day retreat (because of covid, it has been 3 years). Dan and I went as additional chapareons. It was a full, fun weekend of learning about the Lord, Bible, mission, friendship and so much more. I am so thankful for the youth group! We are so proud to be the parents of this beautiful 14 year old. May she grow in Jesus, wisdom and grace!



I am always amazed at all the Lord does and I don’t even get to see a tiny speck of it. I learn so much all the time. Last week was a rough one and a beautiful one! My dear neighbor and I are doing a Bible Study on Hosea and the reason I bring this up is it continued to come up during my week. One of our families in the center moved to another city in November. It really broke my heart because the police and I were sure it was a trafficking situation. The mom moved with her 8 year old daughter and her new ‘boyfriend’ and left the 17 year old boy to fend for himself here in Quito. We have tried to help the very young man but because of his actions needed to suspend him from the center for 90 days. Well, the 90 days were up when we got back from the States and sure enough he came to the center for help. The past 2 weeks he has been doing well, studying school subjects and getting disciplined Biblically. Over the weekend, he ended up in jail for 2 days. He came back to the center last Tuesday. Shortly after the psychologist and I talked with him, his mother shows up. She demands to see me. I can’t even tell you the anger and feelings I had inside when I saw her. I asked where her 8 year old daughter was and she said “with her man”. She also told me that she had gone back to Venezuela to get her other kids and the 6 year old girl was also with her man. I thought I would vomit. To be honest, I just wanted to punch her. I had to take a few minutes before I could talk with her. I went to the kitchen and our dear kitchen staff prayed over me. The Lord reminded me of Gomer from Hosea. He showed me that this mom is Gomer. He reminded me that I am Gomer and how much He has forgiven me. He reminded me that I am not the judge and I am to love unconditionally. Ouch all the way around. I did speak with the mom along with our psychologist. It was not easy to talk lovingly with someone that is putting their children(5 total) in serious harms way. I ended up giving her food and had our campus pastor share the gospel with her then sent her on her way. The 17 year old is choosing not to go with her and staying with some other people who are a part of the center. Pray for him as he has been through so much abuse and has a long ways to go in school. May Jesus be his Lord! Pray that the seeds of the gospel go deep into this mom. Pray for protection of the little kids ages 8, 6 and 5.

In the midst of talking with the mom above, our campus pastor knocks on the window of the psychologist office and ask if I have a minute. I told him not right this minute. When I finished with the mom, I went to find out what was up. He told me that Camilla was asking to pray with me to accept Christ but went ahead and did it with some of the staff. It makes me cry just thinking of it now. In the midst of this crazy situation, the Lord was redeeming a dear 13 year old which is what the Lord was doing with Gomer on her wedding day. I pray that Camilla stays true to the Lord unlike what Gomer did. (if you don’t know the story – read the book of Hosea in the Bible). When I saw Camilla minutes later, she greeted me with, “we are sisters in Christ.” Yall, this is why we are all here, to make our family larger. Praise Jesus that He is in the business of reconciliation!



Right after she calls me sister. We are some happy siblings.



After 2 years, the kids are finally back to school in person. It has not been an easy transition for them as many are so far behind in school and the school system has decided to just promote all of them. Our teacher and psychologist have been diligent, working with schools to get the kids on the level they need to be and other needs they have like help with dyslexia. The schools have been so receptive to the help that they have started calling us to see if we can help with other students. The need is so overwhelming great. We always have to go back to the fact that Jesus didn't help everyone and told us that the poor will always be with us. The waiting list for the center is now over 70 kids. We are working on introducing more students to the foundation at a very slow pace as we want to do this to the best of what the Lord has/is providing. This is our full staff that runs the day to day, minus Dan as he is taking the picture. They are incredible warroirs for the Lord and take care of it all while we are in the States. (communication each day)

Dan, Johanna (our secretary for the board) and the lawyer have been working with the government to get the final paperwork done. We are hoping to hear this week for the finalized papers. (Come to find out it wasn't all complete last year. Uhg) The team has been praying about expanding the foundation to possibly accommodate more kids on the waiting list. Our current facilities will only hold so much, plenty for a while. As a social services foundation in Ecuador, we can apply for a grant from the providence to rent an abandoned school for rent free for 30-40 years. It depends on the contract. The school pictured to the right is one that we would like to apply for. We would be responsible for the renovations and upkeep but the space would be incredible. Please pray with us on the Lord's will in this.



I love this picture. These three just studying and the peacefulness of it. All three of these kids are very far behind in school. None of them could write their names when we started in September.

We try to take the kids somewhere at least every other month. Their world is very small with very few good experiences. We are finding one of their favorites is just going to the local park. This is us looking out over the city and enjoying some vitamin d. This is not all the kids. Some of them decided to have a fist fight right before we left the center so they were at the center with some of the staff.



The whole point of going to the States in February was to move my parents from Texas to Mississippi. My parents are living about 15 minutes from our son. It has been a very good move all the way around. The move went well and they have settled in very well. It is always wonderful to see my parents!

Many of you know, we have lived in Texas. (I have lived 31 of my 50 years in Texas and Dan more than I) So, while we were moving my parents we decided to visit lots of friends and a few churches. We started out with North Texas with friends and a small family reunion on Dan's side of the family. I got to hug my great nephews and meet my great niece. We were blessed to be at Aurora Baptist Church one Sunday. We are excited that the Ladies Bible study has decided to take us as missionaries they pray for. Thanks, ladies. We were also blessed to share at First Baptist of Lyford in the valley, thank you. You have to love good old Texas baptist church potlucks. YUM! One of my favorite is catching up with friends from North Texas to the valley and to Corpus. If you didn't know, Texas is 2 ½ times bigger than Ecuador and we covered a reasonable amount of Texas while there. We love yall and are thankful for all our Texas friends and family. (We can't show pictures of everyone. Bummer)



I can never thank the Lord enough for times with my parents and our big kids; it never seems to be enough but I am always grateful for it! My wonderful husband sacrificed the time and money for me, alone, to be able to pop in for a weekend with Isaac and Victoria. It was the fastest weekend ever, but always thankful to hug my baby girl and my son-in-love. We got to go on a hike and worship together two different times. Dan and Samantha helped unpack mom and dad and hung out with Zachary. I also got to spend a couple of days with Z before heading home. I am so proud of these people!

Victoria graduates from Liberty University with her bachelors in nursing on May 7th. The Lord has provided for us to be there. (I am so thankful) We are in need of a car for that time frame. We will be taking that time to see supporters, friends and churches on the more eastern side of the country. We land in New Orleans April 26th and fly back out of there June 16th. (N.O. is a hour and a half from my parents and Z and the cheapest place for us to fly to). We will be mostly stationed out of Huntsville while in the States. We will be at Madison Bible Church, New Hope Church, Mountain View United Methodist Church and with a group near Raliegh, NC. (and probably New Life Baptist and Wall Highway Baptist but those aren't confirmed, yet). We hope to see a lot of you between Mississippi, Alabama, to Virginia. Please let us know how we can connect with you. We are so thankful for all of you. The Lord continues to grow the team that is impacting Quito and beyond.

Thank you for following me this far. It has been 2 months since the last time we wrote and there is so much more to say. But I will end with the Lord is faithful and He is loving. He wants to reconcile us to Him. He wants us to adore Him as our bride groom. Make Him first in your heart. "But seek first the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matt. 6:33

Many blessings,
Dan, Gina and Samantha