

Growing



In the jungle with the Tennant family, Missy and Kirstin

Praises:

- The country has been more stable especially here in Quito.
- Work on the foundation is moving along. We are planning on opening on March 9th, Lord willing.
- Our team is growing and the Lord is providing each thing or person needed.
- Our baby turned 16 years old.
- Rafael is in a stable home.
- Kirstin and Missy were a blessing to have. They helped so many people.
- We were able to visit missionary friends in the jungle.
- Tom and Vicky were here for a few days. It was fun to see them after 6 years.
- Our car is fixed.
- The Lord has blessed us with a wonderful community of friends.
- Jesus is faithful and sovereign.

Prayer Requests:

- Continued wisdom for the President of Ecuador and the stability of the country as we are still under a 60 day state of emergency.
- The foundation is done enough for opening March 9th, if that is what the Lord has.
- Our new team mates and interns to become part of the team.
- Wisdom and discernment for which kids/families start with us as there is almost 200 on the list already.
- Our continued health – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.
- Pray the foundation would be a light on the hill for the Lord's glory.



Happy sweet 16th birthday, Samantha!

I love these two pictures of her so much because they describe her so well. She loves animals. This little dog was on the street and Samantha just stopped and loved on it for a few minutes. There is also ice cream in that picture. The second picture is at her homeschool group Lord of the Rings fundraiser with one of her leaders. She loves her leaders. She loves making costumes. She sewed her costume and has enjoyed sewing so much lately. She loves that time period. She loves to bake and made some lembas bread. She is barefoot. The best part is those pictures are the real smiles on her face which makes my heart soar. I love this young woman! She is growing up so fast!

Our team is growing! Welcome Caty and Kami! Caty is our new girls Bible teacher and Kami is our clinical pscyologist. We also have six interns, Aurin, Rachel, Naomi, Seth, James and Will from Living and Learning this semester. They are from all over the United states, here to learn Spanish and serve the Lord. Their energy and passion have been wonderful to have around. We are excited to see how the Lord will use all of them at Light in the Darkness.



The staff, a local worker and Dan at the center for Valentine's Day.



The interns cleaning before painting acting like Bob the Builder.

The foundation is coming along and we plan to have an open house on March 9th with students starting the 11th, Lord willing. We are working on government paperwork, fixing the building, programs, building the team and so much more. It has been exciting to see things transform and grow may that be of our team, the building, relationships in the community or even the weeds. We are super excited to be working with kids and families again soon on a daily basis. It is what makes ministry fun. Pray that the kids and families and all that work/volunteer there would know, love and grow in Christ.

We had our first break down on the side of the road needing a tow truck. It happened to be me, Gina, by myself which was a first in life. It was sweet to be able to share Christ with the tow truck driver. I am praying for him to know Christ. The car has been in and out of the shop a couple of times this month. Pray it can be totally fixed and we can keep it as cars here are very expensive. As it is for everyone, it has made work a bit more difficult because it is also what transports supplies to the center.



Our car – pray for it to be used.



Our car canoe



Taxi on the Napo a tributary to the Amazon



Missy, Kistin and us in the jungle.

We had the privilege of having Kirstin and Missy visit the first part of February. Always a joy with lots of laughs with Kirstin here. She did not get held up this year, so a huge improvement over last year. We also went to visit some Orphanos missionary friends in the jungle. It was wonderful to see the Tennants (pictured at the top of the page) and to get out of the city a bit. We had several modes of transportation. The van is getting on the 'ferry'. The 'ferry' held three cars with our borrowed neighbor's car being the second on the boat. We kept the windows down just in case it went down that we could get out with the great knowledge that we all know how to swim. Also, what we would say to our sweet friends that let us borrow a car for the week. (Thanks Gustavo!) The canoe was our mode of transportation to an animal reserve further into the jungle. It was a beautiful time with beautiful people and scenery. I am thankful

for those that the Lord sends to remote places. May the Lord use the Tennants and others in a powerful way. I always return from the jungle with the awe of what the Lord has created and thankful that He has called me to the city.



Will, I, Kirstin, Fanny, Jose, Missy and Aurin at the foundation.



Dan, Tom, Vicky and I at the foundation.

We returned to the city with a full week of Kirstin and Missy seeing people. Fanny is the wife of one of our volunteers. She has cancer. Kirstin worked on her a couple times in the week. We are praying the Lord heals her. Kirstin and Missy had over 70 appointments with most of them feeling better and sleeping better. I pray that many were and will be healed. Will and Aurin (two of our interns) translated for them the days at the foundation. I was thankful for the break from translating. We are so thankful that Kirstin and Missy shared their skills and their love for Jesus! See yall next year!

A week later, sweet friends, Tom and Vicky Hall, that we meet at MTI(missionary training in Jan. 2018) stayed for a visit after they lead a short term team for a week here in Ecuador. Always fun to reconnect with missionary friends and share what the Lord has been doing in our lives. I love what the Lord has been doing through them in Kenya and the States. I pray the Lord continues to use them in a lasting way. Thank you Tom and Vicky for jumping in and painting at the foundation and loving on us for several days. Till next time.

I found that our time with Tom and Vicky really made me think of so many things the Lord has done over the last 6+ years. He is so incredible and faithful. I would have never imagined all that has taken place. It has been a growing time for us as individuals, as a family, as missionaries, as a foundation. Growing definitely has its pains but also made us more dependant on the Lord and has changed us into more of what He has for us. Samantha recently wrote an essay about life. She compared life to a piano with black keys being the sad moments and white keys being the happy moments in life. Some songs can be played with just black keys or just white keys but those aren't the best songs. The best songs use both. A life that is truly lived is with both the sad and the happy. I would like to add to that there are more white keys than black. I am thankful for all the Lord has done, is doing and will do. He is in control and soverign which gives me peace that passes all understanding.

Many blessings,

Dan, Gina and Samantha

PS. See our Texas people at the end of May.