



buzz

Update from Ross Richer Family

It is exactly a month since we returned here to Tena to resume our work among the indigenous people and churches in the Ecuadorian rain forest. This has been a time to renew relationships with our Kichwa neighbors and several of the pastors and leaders we accompanied in 2015. Each day we experience unexpected blessings as well as many challenges as we open our eyes to the reality around us.

Here is a sampling of what we've encountered during our first weeks here:

- Lucio, who complains of back pain, can get the testing and medicine he needs at the local clinic, but his parents are either unwilling or unable, for some reason, to take advantage of the free health care offered to everyone. They are disconnected from the system.
- Emily, a 14-year-old girl nursing her one-year-old boy, can get the support and guidance she needs at the Catholic church on the main plaza, which offers programs for teens and their parents to reduce the frequency of teenage pregnancy. But she is, for some reason, unable or unwilling to participate and remains alone, disconnected from the system.
- Jefferson, Yamilet, Soriada, Paul and their siblings and cousins who live just behind our house are bright and eager to learn. They work hard to help their single mothers meet their basic needs for income by cutting the trees around their house and turning it into charcoal. They could learn the skills needed to become guides and protectors of the rain forest where they live, but are unable or unaware of the opportunities offered by existing organizations and may, sadly, be destined to a life of "tree cutting, drinking and survival," as Clever Machiant, a Shuar pastor and friend, recently put it.
- The lonely, the victims of domestic violence, the alcoholics, the desperate and the empty could get the comfort, counsel, prayer or guidance they need from leaders of the independent indigenous churches scattered across Napo province, churches that open their doors each Sunday to share the good news with anyone who

enters. But attendance is low and the message goes unheard by those who struggle and, for some reason, are unable or unwilling to participate. They remain outside, disconnected from the system.

There are many needs here, but there are also some programs and projects already in place to help meet them. We feel God is calling us to become connectors, helping build bridges between those in need and those willing to help – empowering and encouraging the indigenous people living on the margins by accompanying and introducing them to people and places where their needs can be addressed, both spiritual and physical.

You can visit www.twowaymission.net to see more photos or read the prayer letters in our archive. We treasure your prayers and appreciate your support.

—Jane, Jerrell, Sierra, Naomi,
Teresa and Jordan Ross Richer



The Ross Richer family visiting the home of Pastor Clever and Sophia Machiant with their children, Jabez and Liz.



Sierra with members of her Chaski running team before a race.



Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15
Goshen, IN 46526
p: 574 533-5642
f: 574 533-0879
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

Staff Team

Administrative Ministry

- Greg Hire
Coordinator of Ministry Gifts
- Michelle Lehman
Secretary
- Elvina Schmidt
Bookkeeper
- Janet Shoemaker
Coordinator of Administrative Ministries
- JD Smucker
Worship Coordinator

Facilities Ministry

- Jan Oostland
Facilities Manager
- Courtney Shetler
Custodian
- Irma Perez
Custodian

Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz
Pastoral Team Leader
- Lyle Miller
Pastor of Family Life and Financial Stewardship
- Velma Swartz
Pastor of Senior Ministries
- Cindy Voth
Pastor of Community Life

The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Tuesday preceding publication.

Katie Hurst,
editor; 574 312-0125
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

Bethany Basketball Senior Night

As the home church of three of our basketball players, Cedric Brenneman, Noah Richer and Mason Richer, the athletic department at Bethany Christian would like to invite you to join us on February 23 to watch the Bethany Christian Bruins play Central Noble. This is Bethany's Senior Night, where senior basketball players, including Noah Richer, will be recognized. As our guest, anyone from your congregation will receive free admission for this game. Members from your church can sign in at the ticket booth and at half-time we will recognize your church. Thanks for all you do and hope to see you at the game. Go Bruins!

—Bethany Christian Athletic Department

Thank You from MCC

We at Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), along with our partners around the world, are blessed by your continuing support. Thanks to you, our friends and supporters at Waterford Mennonite, for the many ways you contribute to the work of MCC. In addition to the energy and time you give at relief sales, thrift shops, meat canning and material resources, your congregation contributed \$17,990 in 2015.

We are especially grateful for your prayer support for MCC's work of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. Whether in Syria, Nepal, Nigeria, Colombia or Appalachia, your support is sharing God's love and compassion. Thank you!

—Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes

Membership Transfer Request

Ministry Leadership Council has approved a request for membership transfer to First Mennonite Church (Edmonton, Alberta) from Angie Hostetler. After high school graduation in 2006, Angie attended Conrad Grebel College in Waterloo, Ontario. She married Ryan Andres in 2013. They are both active in First Mennonite in Edmonton. We wish God's blessings on Angie as she contributes to congregational life at First Mennonite Church.

Transition in Facilities & Finance Ministry Team

Dear friends of Waterford Mennonite Church,

As Lay Ministry Partner of the Facilities & Finance Ministry Team for the past five years I've had the pleasure of working with wonderful people. I've sensed a real dedication to strengthen the ministry of WMC financially, environmentally and globally.

You've been an incredible support to my family over the past twenty years and I will always be grateful and cherish these memories. Events in life can dictate change, and I feel it's necessary for me to resign my position as F&FMT Lay Ministry Partner effective Jan 2016. As Kerri and I have begun our new lives together, we've chosen to attend Sunnyside Mennonite Church, a congregation where she has attended for many years and where my daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren attend.

—Jim Fisher

With much appreciation for Jim's faithful service, we have received his resignation from the role of Lay Ministry Partner for F&FMT, and we wish Jim and Kerri God's blessing as they engage with life at Sunnyside.

We are thankful that Dave Hostetler has agreed to fill out the remainder of Jim's term, pending congregational approval. Jim's term was scheduled to end in September, and the Gifts Discernment Ministry Team has begun the discernment process to invite a new LMP for the team.

—Neil Amstutz, pastoral team leader