



May 2009

Ministering to the People of Ecuador

About a guy they call "Satan"

Jorge is a man who lived by the motto 'hago lo que hago'. (I do what I do) He earned the nickname **Satan** by example. Although Ecuadorian culture is generally quite passive, I once saw a slighted Jorge run at and kick, with full force, an unsuspecting acquaintance. People just think he was born bad. Many have prayed for Jorge at my request over the last couple of years, but I would have never imagined the nature of God's response.

Just after our return to Ecuador in January, Jorge had a life changing event. A brawl with 3 other men concluded as a bottle was broken over Jorge's face and eye. The resulting damage was so extensive that he lost all vision in his left eye. (Cont'd)

According to Lynette

It is hard to believe that five months have passed since I took this picture in New York. Life has been very busy here. I have been teaching three



classes, mentoring a young teacher – from Buffalo, NY. This past month, I was the substitute

principal for the Nate Saint Memorial School. God has really shown me his timing is perfect! When I first arrived, I just knew I could be used at the school and yet, those doors did not open until now. This journey God has us on is always humbling. He is continually showing me that His plans are perfect; all I have to do is trust in His will daily.



Flying solo!

Rob's colleague, Bruce, has been asked to return to MAF headquarters this summer to support our worldwide fleet. That leaves Rob with a full plate! From radios, to the computer, network to the phone system, he feels a bit overwhelmed. But, all things are possible to them that love the Lord!



Handing over the "reigns"

In June, the MAF Ecuador program will officially be managed by national staff instead of ex-patriots. What does this mean for Rob? His skills are still needed here to keep the fleet and the communications system operating. One need is to find an Ecuadorian radio tech to train and take on

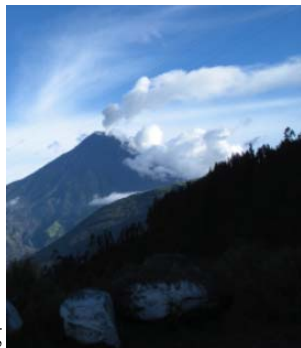
some of the responsibilities. Christian Zabala has been talking to us and has shown interest to do just that. He is a fine Christian young man whose like minded desire to help the less fortunate in Ecuador in the name of our Lord fits with our future goals.

Introducing: The one eyed jungle dog..... Working in the jungle installing radios seems a bit *different* but sometimes things get downright crazy. Sagwa is a dog whose missionary owner, Dawn, lives in a small village in the interior. I promised her I would install a radio in Saum, Ecuador if she was there for the long term. She brought this husky mix in with her and a table fell on Sagwa's eye, damaging it beyond repair. Surgery isn't possible in the interior with the lack of skills and supplies available, so I was asked to take Sagwa out and have her cared for. We "foster parented" her until Dawn was able to take her back to the village.



Lynette slated for Quito visit

As many of you know, Lynette simply cannot live in Shell, Ecuador in July. Between the volcanic activity and the plant life that her body cannot tolerate, she evacuates her home for the month of July. Please pray for our family during this time. Little Robert and Rebecca will accompany her to the capital city during their summer break. Please pray for their safety and her ability to return to Shell soon afterwards. Pray for Rob, as he works in Shell and occasionally travels to Quito.



A Guy called "Satan" (cont'd)

Jorge's thoughts of permanent disability combined with the pain of extensive surgeries had all but broken his

will. His formerly proud, charismatic personality seemed to be shrouded in uncertainty. His dreams of becoming a certified physical education instructor vanished as his professors saw him as disabled. When I visited him at his home after one surgery, he showed me an inch long triangular piece of glass that was removed from behind his eye. This development extinguished his last hopes of saving his retina and ultimately, his sight. "Almost every one of my friends have disappeared," Jorge lamented as he wept one day.

I feel privileged that God saw fit to allow me to walk through this incredible experience with Jorge. I had often wondered why the Lord seemed so silent when I was trying to reach out to this guy called "Satan" during our first term here. Apparently, I was the one who needed to learn about patience and timing.

These last weeks have been filled with events I would have never dreamed possible. Jorge has been reaching out to afflicted friends with compassion. He has talked about revenge not being his to take. He is now completing his coursework, at the top of his class. He is respectful, humble and has acknowledged God's hand in this entire process.

Will you please pray for Jorge, that his understanding of God and Christ will deepen?

Thank you!

We give thanks to our Lord for you who continue to support the work here in Ecuador. May you be greatly blessed!

Sincerely,

Robert & Lynette

Robert and Lynette DiCraсто
Alas de Socorro
Shell, Pastaza
Ecuador

rdicrasto@maf.org

Webpage: www.maf.org/dicrasto

Skype name: dicrastost

Phone: (from the US) 011-5933-279-6565