

Missionary Trip to Ecuador

February 1-15 2021

This is my fifth trip to Ecuador and perhaps one of the most productive missionary trips thus far since I started traveling to Latin America with Apostle Richard in 2010. I arrived in Guayaquil on February 1st and by the evening, I had dinner with María Fernanda and part of her team. Then the following day on February 2nd, we met with the rest of María Fernanda's group in one of the suburbs of Guayaquil (see picture below). This group of disciples, are working directly with the people in their community. Many of the people who have been impacted by their ministry are young people who were addicted to drugs. Something shocking about María Fernanda and her husband Carlos is that they left a safer place where they lived and moved into one of the most dangerous suburbs in Guayaquil to be among the needy. All the work they do, they do in a missionary context, they don't have a local church, or weekly services, but their work is solely focused on the community instead.



On February 3rd, Pastor Marcelo García picked me up at the hotel I was staying in Guayaquil and we headed to the city of Babahoyo, located one hour from Guayaquil. That same day during the evening, we ministered in his church to a group of leaders from his community. A group of more than 100 pastors and leaders attended this training. We spoke about the power of vision and the importance of making disciples.



On February the 4th, we ministered in a small community, near Babahoyo, called San Nicolás. This community is located in the middle of a banana plantation. A group of 40 people attended this event, which I spoke to about inner healing.



The next day, on Friday the 5th, we ministered in the city of Duran, which is very close to the city of Guayaquil. This was one of the main events that was prepared. Leaders of the fraternity of pastors in the city attended this training. The teachings of the KP were very well received and the movement of the Holy Spirit was very impressive in the midst of this congregation. All were challenged to do missionary work in their city and their nation. We spoke about Kairos and Chronos and the Missional Supremacy of the Great Commission.



After ministering in Duran, around 10:00 PM, we headed toward Salinas. This city is located on the coast and is two and a half hours away from the city of Duran. On the morning of Saturday the 6th, we left Salinas toward Manantial de Chanduy, a small town located half an hour from Salinas. A small group of people were present at this training. We spoke about 1st Samuel 3 and discussed the Ten Steps to Launch Movements of Disciples.



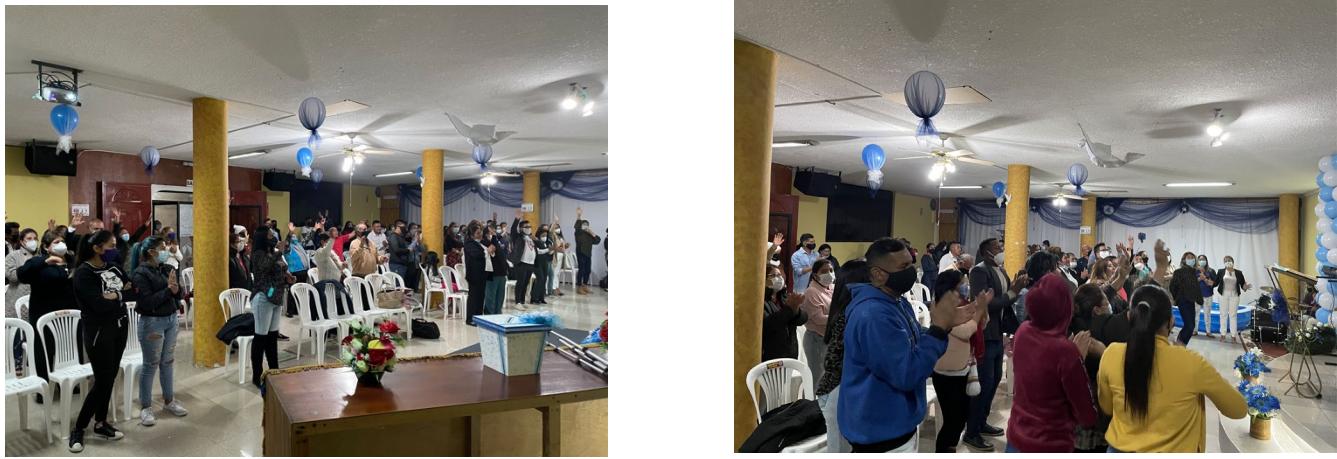
After finishing our work in this small town, we headed towards Babahoyo and ministered at Pastor Marcelo's Church. I spoke about making the right decisions in Life and I illustrated the story of Ruth and extracted some

principals based on the decisions she made. The following day, Sunday February 7th, were the presidential elections in Ecuador and thank God, we were able to rest on this day.

Monday the 8th, Pastor Marcelo, his wife and one of their daughter traveled with me to Riobamba, which is located in the Ecuadorian mountains. Pastor Jaime Rios waited and welcomed us to the city. As you remembered, him and his family attended the Keystone Project two years ago. Since he visited the Keystone Project, the Lord has opened many doors in different parts of Ecuador. His ministry in Riobamba is one of the largest in the city and is made up of many young people who are new converts. The movement of the Spirit in this church is so strong that on Sunday the 14th, more than 17 people received the Lord (see photo on the right). I was so privileged to dedicate this harvest to the Lord.



Riobamba is not the only place the Lord is moving, but also in the city of Quito and the eastern part of the country God is bringing a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit (see photos below of the church of Quito). The church of Quito was established a couple of year ago, they now have more than 100 people in their congregation. The night I preached in this church, six people were baptized.



On Tuesday the 9th, very early in the morning we headed to the east of the country where the Shuara tribe is found, they are also known as the Huaorani tribe. This tribe was the one that killed Jim Elliot and four other missionaries in 1956. Despite the fact that the conditions of the roads are very bad, Pastor Jaime and his group decided to leave the comfort zone and reach this tribe for Christ.

The hunger for the things of the Spirit is without question, something that I have never seen. Just to give you an idea of what I am talking about, let me tell you two testimonies that impacted my life. A sister who lived in another community far from where we held the event, walked all day to be present at the training we had.

The most impressive thing about this sister is that she not only came to be trained, she was also one of the sisters who served us food (see photo below).

A 23-year-old man, walked 6 hours from his village to be at training. This young man named Francisco is part of the group of young leaders that Pastor Jaime is training once a month. Every month, Francisco makes the same journey of six hours to be trained by the Shekinah team. In his small village, there are 80 people and only ten of them are Christians. His dream is to reach all his community for Christ and he promised me the next time we come, he was going to bring the rest of his brothers and sisters.



While at night, we preached the word and many accepted the Lord, during the day, a group of doctors, dentists and nurses cared for the sick. More than \$ 1000.00 in medications were distributed among those who arrived with different health problems.



The hunger to know more about God is so palpable in the midst of this tribe to such a degree that they received us with such joy and at the same time, they dismissed us with great sadness. The faces of the girls who came forward to receive the Lord as their Savior, have been etched in my mind. There is no doubt that the work Jim Elliot began many years ago was not in vain, he sowed the seed and now it is our turn to see the harvest.



¿How can we help the Huaorani Tribe?

As we read the history of the Huaorani, the Spanish could not conquer them and for years it was very difficult for the Gospel to enter their villages. Today the story is changing and the gospel is coming in with power. The opportunity to mark the history of these people is in our hands. Personally, I made a commitment to Pastor Jaime to return and help him train his leaders. Some of his disciples who accompanied us yearn to move to where these villages are and live amongst them. These people, who apparently are very poor, have wealth that they have not been able to exploit. They have land that is very fertile and that could be used to grow different kinds of fruits and vegetables. Together with Pastor Jaime and a group of brothers who are agronomists, we will implement a work plan and help these villages with the knowledge and resources they need so that they can utilize their lands.

Finally, last year our ministry contributed more than \$ 4000 to different ministries that are involved with the Keystone Project in Peru, Ecuador and Mexico (see attached report). Bearing in mind that the Huaorani tribe is an unreached group and for this reason we will increase the financial aid to Ecuador. Just this week, we sent \$500.00 to Pastor Jaime to help for the purchase of a chainsaw for the Huaorani tribe. This tool will be very helpful to start clearing the land and preparing it for cultivation. Next month we will send a similar aid and in August of this year, with God's help, we will be back in Ecuador. God is Great!!