

THE VIEWPOINT

A quarterly news update from the Campbell family in Ecuador

Celebrating Christmas at the Camp: Parties and Events for All Ages

Christmas-time is one of our favorite times of year at Camp Bellevue. This year, we celebrated with several different parties and events over the same weekend. First was the ladies' Christmas Tea. We planned this for the women of the Tabacundo Church of Christ on a Friday evening, and we even had a few visitors! The women got to make a Christmas craft, decorate Christmas cookies, and enjoy some light refreshments and a short devotional.

The following day, we hosted two different parties at the camp, for the kids and the youth. The kids' Christmas party was in the morning. A group of motorcyclists came out from Quito for the day to help us with this party. We had a craft, games, and other activities — but the highlight of the day for the kids was definitely the motorcycle rides! Our friend and Landrover mechanic brought his family and a couple of his employees out to help as well. They paid for lunch for everyone (almost 150 people!) and gave the kids rides around the camp in the Landrovers. At the end of the day, each child received a gift and a bag full of treats to take home. It was the first time we can remember that this event was entirely funded by Ecuadorian organizations!

That same evening, after a few hours to rest, clean up and reset the camp, we hosted the youth Christmas party. Over 40 youth showed up for games, a nice lasagna dinner, and a devotional. After the devo, they got to make peppermint s'mores as a special Christmas dessert, using the big fireplace in the auditorium instead of the firepit because of rain.

Finally after all that, we had an outing one day the following week with the camp staff. We relaxed at the hot springs at Oyacachi for several hours, and then had a big dinner at a restaurant. Each staff member received a food basket to share with their families, and we gave thanks to God for his gracious care and for "another year of life," as they say in Ecuador.



Camp Bellevue staff and leadership team at our annual Christmas dinner

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San Antonio, TX

Somerset Church of Christ
Somerset, PA

Carman Church of Christ
Carman, Manitoba

Manson Church of Christ
Manson, Manitoba

Various individuals

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" And he said, "Go..."
~ ~ ~Isaiah 6:8

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **PRAISE** for the conclusion of another great year at Camp Bellevue (see p. 1).
- **PRAISE** for safe travels for Rusty while he was in the U.S. (see right).
- **PRAISE** for good healthcare in medical emergencies and for support during a stressful time (see right).
- **PRAISE** for all of our wonderful supporters who make it possible for us to serve here in Ecuador at Camp Bellevue.
- **PRAY** for the children we serve through the After School Program and for their families.
- **PRAY** for health, safety, and stamina for our family.
- **PRAY** for Ecuador's government and leaders and for peace to prevail.
- **PRAY** for the camp's financial situation and for wisdom for us as we determine how best to use our limited resources.
- **PRAY** for our co-laborers in this ministry: Guillermo, Syndi, and Seyber.
- **PRAY** for our employees and their families.
- **PRAY** for the evangelists / church planters that Rusty coaches and for the various churches they serve.

Rusty Travels to the U.S.:

Reporting and Fundraising in October / November

After spending three months in the U.S. on home ministry assignment two years in a row (2021 and 2022), we did not travel back as a family this past fall. Rusty, however, did spend about three weeks there in October and November. He went first to Texas for the annual Operation Ecuador Summit, hosted this year by the Faith Village Church of Christ in Wichita Falls, TX. He also took



Rusty presents on Camp Bellevue at the Operation Ecuador Summit (photo credit: Sheila Lockwood)

the opportunity while there to visit two of our supporting churches (the Shawnee Trail Church of Christ in Frisco and the Hawley Church of Christ in Hawley) to report on the work in Ecuador. Then he flew up to Washington to spend some time with our sponsoring congregation, the Bellevue Church of Christ. He was there for Missions Sunday, where he reported on the ministry of the camp and also preached. He also visited two churches in Oregon.

The kids and I stayed at home in Ecuador, and I was praying for an uneventful three weeks while Rusty was gone. However, that was not to be. Two days after he left, I had to take Elizabeth in to a clinic in Cayambe for a stomach-ache that wouldn't go away. The doctor determined she had acute appendicitis and operated on her that same evening! These kinds of health emergencies are always stressful, but even more so when one parent is away. I am thankful for all the help and support I received from our friends and coworkers here at the camp and from my sister in Quito.

We appreciate your prayers for us, our children, and the ministry at Camp Bellevue and beyond. See the sidebar for specific ways to pray for us. We thank God for each of you and for your prayers and support that sustain and encourage us on this journey!

ANNOUNCING A NEW PARTNERING CONGREGATION!

We are thrilled to announce that the MacArthur Park Church of Christ (San Antonio, TX) is coming on board as a supporter of the camp. In January, the Bellevue Church of Christ let us know that they were reducing the amount they give annually to support the camp, due to some budgetary challenges the church is facing, so MacArthur Park's agreement to partner with us for the next five years could not have come at a better time! We look forward to working with this congregation and receiving some of their members as a short-term mission team at some point in the future.

Contributions to our family or ministry may be sent to: *Bellevue Church of Christ, 1212 104th Ave. SE, Bellevue WA 98004*. Make checks payable to the church and earmark "Camp Bellevue" (for the camp general fund) or "Campbell Family" (for our personal support).

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

