

# Greater *things*

*Jesus said to his followers: "... if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father." (John 14:12)*



## ¡Saludos desde Ecuador! (Greetings from Ecuador!)

From Adriene Lane - Currently Serving in Quito with WorldTeach

I hope everyone is doing well after getting through another Illinois winter. Brutal winter weather is definitely not something I have dealt with in Ecuador, as it typically remains in the mid-60s here year round. I definitely did not miss winter in Illinois!

In addition to the weather, there are many other aspects of Ecuador that I am really enjoying. The aspect I am enjoying the most is teaching. I am teaching English at a university in Quito, but students from other universities and high schools, as well as community members can enroll in the language courses, so the ages of my students have ranged from 16-34. Overall, the students are very respectful and most have a strong desire to learn English in order to study abroad, teach English, conduct business with English-speaking customers, and/or gain more job opportunities within Ecuador and abroad. Instead of teaching in semesters, we teach in cycles, which last for eight weeks. I have just started my third teaching cycle, and just have one more after this one before I return back to the U.S. Hopefully, my work and teaching will help them have better lives and aid in Ecuador's overall economic development.

Another aspect of Ecuador that I really appreciate is



the people. From my host family, to my students, to my Ecuadorian friends, the majority of people in Ecuador are very nice, welcoming and giving. Within the Ecuadorian culture, there is a high importance placed on family and community, and this can be observed in everyday life. For example, it is typical for a child to live with their parents until they get married, and even after they get married, they still visit their parents often.

In the case of my host family, I live with the grandparents, and their grandchildren come over every day after school, and then almost every night their family comes over for dinner. Even though I am not a member of their family by blood, they still include me like I am a part of the family. For instance...they had a birthday dinner for me, have invited me to family parties, and when people from home have come to visit me, they have invited them over for dinner. I have been just as welcomed into the families of my Ecuadorian friends as well. I have really come to admire how Ecuadorians take care of their family and also give to others as if they were family.

I have also appreciated being able to find community not just with Ecuadorians, but also with Christians from other countries. Soon after arriving in Ecuador, I attended the Mennonite church where the Wiggintons are missionaries...

(continued on back page)

Minister of Administration & Community Life:  
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Discipling:  
Jeff Marner

**AMC**  
arthur mennonite church

Minister of Outreach:  
Lamar Miller

Minister of Youth and Worship:  
Ashley Litwiller



## First Fruit Giving Giving God Our Best

	Stewardship	Attendance
3/25/18	\$4,121.31	123
4/1/18	\$4,009.50	144
4/8/18	\$3,523.00	130
4/15/18	\$4,827.50	136
4/22/18	\$3782.00	139

## Scripture

We believe that all Scripture is inspired by God through the Holy Spirit for instruction in salvation and training in righteousness. We accept the Scriptures as the Word of God and as the fully reliable and trustworthy standard for Christian faith and life. We seek to understand and interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ as we are led by the Holy Spirit in the church.

**Article 4 from *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* Summary Statement**

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Lamar (Nadine) Miller	May 1
Carol Yoder	May 2
Mike Taylor	May 5
Kathleen Burdick	May 6
Chris Mast	May 7
Lester Schrock	May 9
Lonnie Plank	May 11
Karen Litteral	May 13
Ashley Miller	May 13
Emma Miller	May 16
Jaxson Plank	May 18
Judy Beachey	May 19
Regina Miller	May 22
Marla Kauffman	May 23
Caleb Lane	May 24
Bradley Taylor	May 24
Marlon Miller	May 28
Sondra Gingerich	May 28
Alexia Burnett	May 29
Joanna Yoder	May 29
Kenny (Erica) Schrock	May 30
Erica Schrock	May 31

## Resource of the Month: Veggie Tales



Recently, Our Church library received a bag of DVDs, included these Veggie Tales and more! Make sure to stop by and check those out!

Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber are an unlikely duo in a world of talking fruits and vegetables. The two friends learn about honesty, kindness, thankfulness and forgiveness together — and Larry always has a silly song to sing. Their stories convey moral themes based on Christian culture and frequently retell and recreate Bible stories. The show is aimed at kids ages three to eight. Phil Vischer and his friends brought all the characters to life from 1990-2000s, starting in Chicago, IL. The famous closing line from their episodes: “God made you special and he loves you very much.” Head down to the church library to borrow these videos and more! It’s a good time for the whole family!

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Lamar & Nadine Miller	May 18th
Zeb & Kendra Hughes	May 28

The service was all in Spanish, so I decided to seek out a church with services in English. With just a quick Google search, I actually found an English church and it was not far from where I was living. The following Sunday I went to church there and as soon as I walked into the building, I was greeted by fellow English speakers and familiar worship music, which was unbelievably comforting! A majority of the congregation consists of Americans who have moved to Quito, but there are also many Ecuadorians that attend, along with people from other countries around the world. It is a moving experience worshipping with people from all over the world with vastly different experiences and cultures, but with a shared faith and purpose.

Through attending church here, I have been able to make friends with other Americans, as well as those from other countries, such as Germany and Haiti, and these friends have been a great support for me. I hadn’t realized how much I was missing that type of community, but I am very thankful I was able to find it even while in another country, let alone hemisphere. It made me realize how truly widespread Christianity is in the world, and how even though we have different cultures and languages, we can find commonality in our belief in Jesus Christ.

Thank you all for your continued prayers. I am looking forward to returning and sharing more about my experiences!

## Continued from front article



**Front Page:** Class pictures from two of Adriene’s English Classes.

**Top Left:** Fanesca, a traditional dish served during Holy Week.

**Middle Left:** Adriene & her dad, Matt Lane visited Cotopaxi National Park on his visit in December.

**Bottom Left:** Adriene with her host family, Wilson & Etna.

**Bottom Right:** Adriene enjoying a delicious traditional Ecuadorian dish called fritada.

