Oct Ecuador Update

Good Morning Folks!

Hope you're enjoying this short Indian Summer as we call it! So nice and refreshing after almost 90 days of 100+ weather with no rain in our corner of Oklahoma! We are just back and catching up from the O.E. Summit Meeting in Fort Walton Beach....that would be Florida for you dry-land folks. It was a smaller group but a good one and an encouraging time together looking at the various moving parts of Operation Ecuador.

As you know, while we were there, a tremendous rain, mostly up in the mountain region that feeds the Cayapas sent a surge of water that rose to unprecedented heights, flooding most of the villages and dwellings in the area of Kumanii and beyond. That kind of surge is quick, destructive, and can be deadly. It takes a good while to recuperate. I posted a short video on Facebook of the river and some of its destruction. Those people live difficult lives on a daily basis and amazingly they face times incredibly well. It makes me embarrassed to compare my difficulties with theirs!

I mentioned that it would be good to try to help out a little, especially with church members, or a few neighbors that we know that were most affected in some of the villages where we hold studies on a regular basis. It is extremely difficult to know HOW to help and WHO to help when there is such great need on every hand. Our children's program is sending some basic food donations to their families when we have them on-site every other month. However, this was a special need and some of you quickly said you would be sending some $$ to our bank account in Snyder to assist in a rapid distribution of some food. Others of you responded by assuring us of your prayers which are of such great need in any ministry on a daily basis! This was/is an opportunity to display our love, God's love, and our interest in the lives of these people we have come to love and admire. Just an idea, this small effort, rapidly put together, cost $2500. A couple of times during Covid, we distributed around $10,000 of bulk food to the villages. In that case, we asked them to come to Kumanii and we were prepared with large sacks of food that their leaders picked up, carried home in their canoes, and distributed among their villages. We are pretty aware now how many families live in the villages. So, as you can see, it is an almost "bottomless pit" of need AND opportunity! But it communicates WE ARE HERE TO STAY --- WE ARE EXTENSIONS OF GOD'S HEART to all the people of the upper Cayapas River and WE WANT TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE AND PLAN OF SALVATION with them.

Before putting this on Facebook, Alberto and I decided we should put things in motion to help our brethren. I was impressed that by phone Alberto was able, with our staff in place, to purchase, ship up-river, and begin organizing for getting something into the hands of 150 families of those affected. So we are exactly one week since the flood waters hit, and the video will help you have a taste of what all went into the emergency project. I am so proud of our evangelists and female teachers, Paty and Yereli, for their hard work in getting this done! I want you (even though the video is poor quality) to see the mud, the river, the riverbanks, the organization, the smiles, and know how much your love means to our "boots on the ground" at Kumanii! Thank you for praying

for: Ismael, Julio, Yicson, Gustavo, Yereli, Paty, Nelis, and Alberto....and the spirit of Christ with which they serve at Kumanii.

Pray for the day that we can begin returning as groups to Kumanii to help out with medical efforts and other projects. In the meantime, our national workers on the ground are representing us well. God has protected them from the dangers of the drug cartels and gangs that are in the area. The work at Kumanii has gone on despite Satan's attacks. Anytime some of you want to go out there in small groups that do not attract as much attention as a large medical group, we can assist you in doing so. Chuck was out there in August putting on a new roof. Thank you, Chuck! Your presence encouraged the staff more than you'll ever know!

Until the Final Trumpet Sounds!

Kent

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