

“Springs of Living Water”

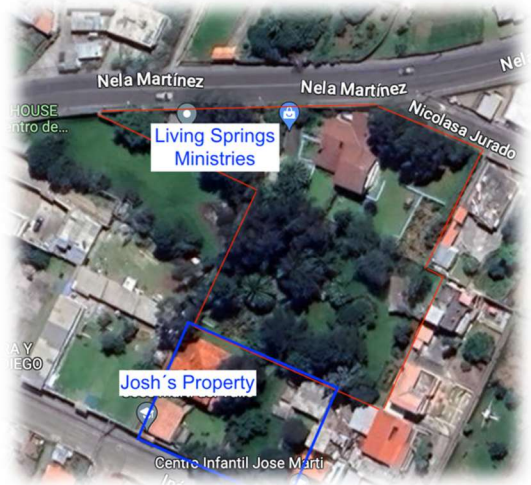
For some time, we have had the dream of beginning a new ministry of the church on the property God blessed us with while in Ecuador to assist in evangelizing the growing Armenia suburb of Quito. We are donating that, realizing more than ever that this life is short, eternity is upon us, and we need to do all we can “while it is day” so that the Kingdom of Christ grows throughout Ecuador and brethren in Christ are strengthened in Him. The name SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER comes from Revelation 7:17. We were wed 50 years ago on July 17 (7-17). The vision began to take shape when the first gathering of believers met in October 2025. They are presently worshipping weekly in a tent on the property with about 75 in attendance. In addition to the church plant, this work carries several hopes for the future. All of these depend on the Lord’s guidance, grace, and timing:

- A Christian wellness center offering medical and counseling services.
- Small residential apartments to care for elderly individuals in need.
- Hospitality for U.S. visitors who wish to serve for short periods in support of the Springs Ministry or other ministries in Quito.

THE JACK AND ROBBIE SIKES “SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER” COMMUNITY CENTER



Sharla’s parents, Jack and Robbie Sikes, gave their entire lives to helping thousands of children in need while serving in four different children’s homes throughout more than 4 decades. They lived up to the “pure and faultless religion” that is spoken of in James 2:27. The second part of James’ focus in that verse is that of caring for widows/elderly in need. During our years in Ecuador, our hearts have gone out to those who truly struggle to live out their later years in peace and security. Some of their stories are heartbreaking. SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER is committed to eventually provide a gated community of Christian dwelling for up to 30 elderly of Churches of Christ. We would like to honor Jack and Robbie by naming this ministry after them! Knowing the impact they left in the Kingdom of Christ, we are assured there are those who will join us in making





this become a reality to bless many in God's kingdom for years to come. Jack and Robbie visited this property in 1995 shortly after we purchased it in 1993. Robbie returned to Ecuador again for a medical mission after Jack's passing in 2013.

She recently passed from this life, crossing Jordan with a thousand-angel escort on December 20th at the age of 97. Thankfully, she had a large family and the resources to be cared for at home up until her passing. Many in Ecuador do not enjoy the blessings most of us have here in the States.

Now, we have some hurdles to jump over to see this become a reality. Some of those can be "placed on the back burner"; others need more urgent attention to "get the ball rolling." God is an experienced hurdle jumper and does "more than we can ask or imagine!"

IMMEDIATE NEED

The largest section of this property has been designated for SPRINGS use, while the remaining portion (1500 sq meters) belongs to Joshua Marcum. Joshua has just recently been invited to serve on the Harding School of Theology faculty and direct their new Christian Worker's Institute, to begin in June! With 3 of 4 children stateside by this summer, they had been debating whether to come back this year or in 2029 when Enoch graduated. Now that this door has opened, they see God in the decision to move back THIS SUMMER. They are grateful for the 20 years God gave them to raise their family and serve as missionaries in South America but now feel the Lord is calling them back to the United States.

SO, as they scramble to return, they must sell their house in Ecuador to be able to purchase another home in Searcy. We need to purchase this property from them! That will allow the entire original Marcum property to remain unified for the Springs Ministries. IT will:

- 1) Provide the new work with important entry access from both sides of the property.
- 2) Support the Jack and Robbie Sikes Community Center with an ideal location and large downstairs area for a community center gathering area for future independent-living residents on the property.
- 3) Eliminate the inevitable need to build something similar in the future.
- 4) Provide an ideal hosting complex for USA visitors who come to work for short periods at SPRINGS or other ministries in Quito.
- 5) Indirectly assist a veteran missionary family with their repatriation to the United States.

Josh and Julie would like to leave their side of the property for the Springs as well, but they are unable to simply deed it over because they need the money to purchase a home on their return to the United States. Home description: Constructed in 2015, it is **3,000 ft² with 4 bedrooms, 3 ½ bathrooms, and 2 studies**, as well as a **wrap-around porch** that overlooks the Los Chillos Valley. The land and house are appraised at over \$250,000 and would sell quickly if placed on the market. If we can raise even \$50-75,000 now, we can secure a loan for them to settle in Searcy. The Southwest Church of Christ in Pueblo, Colorado, is poised to receive all funding for the

SPRINGS to purchase this property. Funding for this phase of the Springs project can be sent now or before June 1st. Communication of commitments for that deferred date will be appreciated.

GRADUAL NEED

The vision of elderly housing at the Jack and Robbie Sikes Community Center is one of “independent living.” Stepping into nursing care would involve much government red tape and control. We must avoid that. Also, an Ecuadorian board “on the ground” along with an administrator will set up guidelines for residency, always in consideration of Biblical thinking of the responsibility of family to care for their own as much as possible. We have communicated with a construction company that is building efficient low-income apartments in the Quito area. We can construct two-bedroom apartments with small living areas and kitchenettes for \$25,000, so each apartment will house 2 people. With a goal of eventually constructing 15 of these apartments, the enclosed area will become a wonderful, gated community of elderly believers in Christ, with medical services at hand, along with a church family to assist them daily.

Is this too big of an undertaking? I can still hear Papa Sikes, who raised a remarkable amount of funding for children’s homes, telling me decades ago, “Kent, never deny anyone the opportunity to help with something good in God’s Kingdom.” I believed in what he said. We are not as much asking for donations as we are extending an excellent opportunity to participate in something that extends into the spiritual and past our lifetimes, an opportunity to invest in the eternal. (Mat. 6:20) May I speak openly? If I wasn’t aware of how much we, as incredibly blessed Americans, lavishly spend on ourselves, how much it costs just to purchase a new vehicle....and how many we own, how much we maintain in savings and how much churches tuck away “for a rainy day” I might not present this need. This is a chance to do something—something really important, something that will bless many who do not have the opportunities we enjoy here in the states AND something that will reciprocally bless each one of us more than we can imagine! Would you be willing to:

- 1) Provide the funding to build an apartment, or ¼-½ of an apartment, in memory or honor of someone you love. That can be an anonymous donation, or we would love to make a plaque to place on one of the apartments.
- 2) Make a monthly commitment, of any amount, to work toward the construction needs of the Sikes Community Center.
- 3) Pray daily for the ministries of Operation Ecuador and the new Springs of Living Water Ministry.

May God bless you as you consider your potential in partnering with this ministry in God’s Ecuadorian Kingdom!

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