



The Mission Society

25 years of global service

Graham and Sharon Nichols

Home Phone: 706.504.3432

Cell: 706.414.8467

E-Mail: Nichols4Ecuador@gmail.com

Web-Page: www.themissionsociety.org/people/Nichols

(If you received this by mistake, or simply wish to be removed from our mailing list, reply to this e-mail with the word "remove" in the subject line. Thank you...and may the Lord bless you and keep you.)

December, 2009

**"... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
Isaiah 40:31**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We praise the Lord for all He is doing in our lives as we prepare to serve in Ecuador; for filling us with His Holy Spirit to guide and direct us, and for pouring out His grace upon us. We pray He has been blessing you wonderfully during this month as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior and that your life has been filled with His mercy. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support as we move forward toward the plan and purpose He has for us. We continually see the results of your prayers and we are truly grateful. You are special people called by our Lord to minister to His children; for some He calls to send and some He calls to go. Thank you for your faithfulness to Him and to us. Thank you for your love for Him, for us, and for His children. †

During this Christmas season as we continue on the path toward field ministry, we have seen the hand of God move in awesome ways in our lives, and in the lives of those He has put in our path. We'd like to take the opportunity through this monthly update for December to set aside what's going on with us and share a story of God's grace and mercy in the lives of a precious couple we love with The Mission Society. It's a little long but necessary to get the full extent of blessings and needs. †

We have asked many of you to pray for Greg Burgner, spouse of Ruth Burgner, Editor of Unfinished, The Mission Society's quarterly magazine. Greg was involved in a horrific automobile accident and has been in ICU at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. Dick McClain, President and CEO of The Mission Society updated us yesterday on Greg's condition. We praise God for the many miracles in his update which follows, and mindful of the call for more prayer. †

After several surgeries, all of Greg's broken bones have been successfully set and seem to be healing nicely. Apart from a rather fashionable beard he is now sporting after three weeks in the hospital, to look at him is just to look at ... Greg. Considering the severity of the accident, that in itself is a miracle of no small proportions.

Greg was transferred from Grady Memorial Hospital to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta this afternoon. Over this past weekend, several things transpired, including the removal of his tracheotomy and the removal of his feeding tube. (He ate normally yesterday morning, which was a very important step and a good sign.) Greg has been speaking and interacting with people. Though he is still far from being fully "himself," there are enough of his mannerisms, his statements of his love for Jesus and his intimacy with the Holy Spirit, and his sweet expressions of love for Ruth to give us confidence about the present and great hope for the future. (Today ... or perhaps last night ... Greg said, "We need to pray for Ruth," and proceeded to pray for God's help for her.)

Shepherd, in addition to being a world class spinal center, also has a marvelous brain injury unit. It's a much better place to evaluate Greg's progress and to get him on the road to recovery than the Grady Hospital ICU. It is anticipated that Greg will undergo extensive therapy for about three weeks at Shepherd.

Now, please don't respond to this positive report by thinking that you can start scaling back your prayers for Greg. Not at all! He needs our prayers now more than ever. My constant prayer is that God would bring to completion what He has begun in Greg. I am both comforted and encouraged by the account of Jesus touching the eyes of a blind man who reported that he now saw people, though they looked like trees. Jesus' response was to touch him again, this time resulting in a full and complete healing. That wonderful story reminds us that God's miracles don't always happen all at once ... even when they were being performed by the Son of God Himself here on earth!

The hardest portion of a marathon are those long middle miles. That's where Greg is right now. Let's keep praying specifically for every bit of bruised brain tissue to heal, for any damaged brain connections to be repaired, and for his thinking and his memory and his perceptions and his judgment and his emotions to return to normal. Pray for patience and determination as Greg begins the long road of therapy and rehabilitation. And pray especially for God's mercies, which are "new every morning," to be manifested to our dear Ruth each and every day precisely at her point of need.

What a blessing to know that Greg and Ruth have a huge family stretching around the world who are standing before the Throne of Grace, interceding on their behalf. There are moments when they will grow weak in the midst of this trial. Let's be there to hold up their arms at those moments!

Its miracle story's like this one, God's answer to prayer that helps keep us focused on Him and the mighty power of the God we serve. People ask us all the time, "how is it possible for you to secure the necessary resources to serve full-time in Ecuador, it's soo much to raise in these tough times" ...our answer..."we can't, but with God ALL things are possible." Greg is with us, because God saved him; he is getting better, because God is healing him; people are praying...God is listening and answering prayers. He is providing strength for Greg and Ruth through the strength and interceding of others...He is providing for them and He will provide for us. †

You know the things we need...they are mentioned in every monthly update closing; and as we humbly ask for your support and to lift our needs to God...we also ask that you include the specific needs from Dick for Greg and Ruth. Thank you for all you do to honor God. Thank you for all you do for us as we kneel together at the Throne of Grace on behalf of others. †

Please pray with us as we continue to raise a foundation of prayer and financial support to minister in Ecuador; for the Lord to open hearts to join us in the ministry of making Disciples to make Disciples. Please pray for the leaders of the churches in Ecuador, and for their spiritual protection and growth in the Lord Jesus. Please pray for our field leaders, Tim and Daina Datwyler as they seek God's will for advancing the ministry in Ecuador. Please pray for our safety as we travel, and that we will boldly speak God's Word wherever we go. †

We pray God gives you peace and joy, and may He continue to bless you. We love you. †

Yours in Christ,

Graham and Sharon Nichols
The Mission Society Missionaries to Ecuador

Donations may be made to:



P.O. Box 922637

Norcross, Georgia 30010

Designate gifts: "Nichols support # 368"

or via **The Mission Society** web-site at

www.themissionsociety.org/people/Nichols



(Please feel free to forward, mail-out or print-out our ministry update information for your Sunday school, small group, church or friends... Blessings!)



Pastocalle, Ecuador