

# News from Sara and Dakin



## United Methodist Missionaries

### Spring 2016

Now that we have begun the year 2016, we want to thank God for life and for his commitment to mission in Ecuador. Thank you for your offerings and gifts sent in 2015 to support our ministry. Missionary work is only possible thanks to the offerings and love of people and churches like yours to the mission of God in the world.



#### Retirement

First of all we want you to know that Dakin has now retired as an active missionary. Although he is looking forward to much less travel and a little less work, part of the reason he decided to retire at this time is to be able to spend more time at home and assist Sara in her ongoing ministries, as well as have more time to be involved in local ministries. Dakin has been working as a missionary commissioned by the General Board of Global Ministries for 22 years now and has been blessed to be supported by so many individuals and congregations over that time. He has always been so grateful for this support that has allowed him to live out a life of faith in The United Methodist Church in relationship to our partner Methodist Churches in Latin America. This has been a truly enriching experience for his faith as well as the faith of so many others, both in the US and in Latin America and we cannot express how much this has meant to us and so many others.

#### EUMCE Assembly

The Evangelical United Methodist Church of Ecuador (EUMCE) held their quadrennial Assembly in November of 2015 which started a new episcopal period and asks you to keep us in constant prayer. Bishop Silvio Cevallos will continue to lead this growing Church for the next 4 years as it matures as an organization and continues to strengthen its identity as a Methodist Church.

Pastor Freddy Balseca was re-elected as Treasurer and will continue to provide financial leadership and guidance to the Church and two new District Superintendents were elected. Rev. Carmen Casteñeda, pastor of the church in Pijal and one of our 2 female pastors will supervise the Sierra District and Rev. Freddy Gonzalez of Guayaquil will supervise the Coastal District.



## Missionary Role

Our main role as United Methodist missionaries is to support the connectionality of our global Methodist Church and more specifically, to strengthen God's mission through the programs and activities of the EUMCE in Ecuador. As missionaries we serve in a particular place for as long as God allows us - we are ready to start new ministries, churches and programs to spread the love of God to transform the world - but when we leave we do not want to just abandon the work. The real blessing is the local Church that remains and if it is a Church strengthened with trained and united leaders, the work continues and grows giving light and hope of salvation.

## Activities

The EUMCE has continued to request Sara's missionary work and support in two areas:

- To help strengthen the Church through training of pastors and leaders and strengthening Church organizations and national committees and relationships;
- To support the mission of local churches, especially the infrastructure and programs for children, youth and women. The EUMCE infrastructure is currently very basic in some churches and others need to start building from scratch. Volunteer mission teams are crucial for this.

Sara's activities in 2015 included:



Improvement of the infrastructure and programs in 5 churches



Support of health needs with medical volunteer groups in 7 churches and communities



Support of Sunday school materials for churches



Support of the ministerial committee and the indigenous church committee



Support of aid projects for emergencies and natural disasters



Support of the national Methodist organization of women



Volunteer Work Teams

### El Prado

God has also challenged us with a missionary initiative in the El Prado community for three years now with indigenous children. We meet every Saturday with Bible encounters and have now started a more sustained work with the families in the community. It is a blessing to see how the Lord is growing his love and presence in the life of this community.



Activities with children in El Prado





### Missionary Support

We thank God for the support you have given us and want you to know that you have strengthened us through your love and care. We count on you to continue the mission in 2016. As Global Ministries missionaries of the United Methodist Church we are privileged to bear witness to the global Body of Christ and the mission of God and to bear witness to the unity and solidarity of mission. You sustain us in prayer and in salary support and we encourage you to make a Covenant Agreement with Sara via the Global Ministries Advance program for missionary support and commit to her annual mission support - this will be a very important for us and for the work of Mission of the United Methodist Church.

For Dakin’s supporting Churches and individuals, as he is no longer an active employee of the General Board of Global Ministries, he will no longer require the support you have provided in his name for Global Ministries missionaries. Therefore, we would like to remind you and ask that you now support Sara as we continue our lives in faith with the Methodist Churches in Latin America. Sara will continue as a United Methodist Missionary and will continue to need your support. We are asking that you switch your support through the Advance for missionaries from Dakin’s number to hers, as Dakin’s number has now been phased out.

Sara Flores Advance # 13988Z

Sara’s biography on the Global Ministries web page can be found at:

<http://www.umcmision.org/explore-our-work/missionaries-in-service/missionary-profiles/Flores-Sara>



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Thank you for supporting our ministries  
You are a part of God’s mission in Ecuador and Latin America  
Pray for the Methodist Church in Ecuador and that God may renew our strength each day  
Please continue to support the Advance projects on the right:

**Advance Projects to support**  
Pastor’s Salaries # 3021092  
Integral Ministry for Children # 3021546  
Building Churches & Parsonages #3021546  
  
Missionary Support through the Advance Sara Flores # 13988Z

Send your gifts through The Advance to your conference treasurer or to Advance GCFA, PO Box 9068, New York, NY. 10087-9068 with the Advance number clearly designated on your check. For more information about developing a Covenant Relationship. Visit [www.advancinghope.org](http://www.advancinghope.org)