

October 2019

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Dear Brethren and Friends in Christ:

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." – II Corinthians 5:8. What a comforting truth!

The last few weeks were very painful physically for our dear sister Noemi! The tumor took over organs rapidly. We prayed for the Lord to heal her as she went back and forth to the hospital for treatments. Noemi said: "I am ready to go home if that is what the Lord wants". On Wednesday October 2 after church service, about 30 of us were at Noemi's house. As we sang and prayed, she went to be with the Lord. We miss Noemi very much, Praise the Lord she is "present with the Lord".

My wife and I arrived to Ecuador on October 11th, 1994. A month later, we met Noemi. She had a great burden to reach the deaf including her deaf daughter. Her prayer was to be part of a deaf church where many deaf could be reached, she thought it would be impossible then the Lord brought us to start a deaf church with a hearing ministry. Noemi became a member of our church. She was our first Ecuadorian teacher for the deaf school. Her love and fear of the Lord was a great blessing. She became a very godly Christian, a soul winner, and served the Lord with us for almost 25 years .

As the Lord supplies, we share support with our teachers. Noemi did not have much, but she gave by faith half of what we shared with her to missions. Only the Lord knows how He supplied all her needs. She led Felix, 97 to Christ. He was selling crafts from house to house. Noemi was touched, and she bought something just to be able to share the Gospel with Felix and led him to Christ. He was a happy Christian and died at around 105 years old.

Deaf and hearing people loved Noemi. She always used the Word of God to encourage people. We had a special memorial service for her. Our Lord's name was glorified as we remembered how Noemi served our Savior whom she loved and feared. We realize once again that only God can save and make our lives worth living with eternal purpose. May the Lord raise many more Christians who realize how much God loves us therefore are willing to serve Him no matter the circumstances or situations in life. God is good. May the name of the Lord be glorified.

Thank you for praying for us during the political and economic unrest here. The Lord protected us during that time as always; there was much looting, protests, etc. on the streets. School classes were forced to be closed for the safety of all students. There was food shortage especially on the mountain cities. Thank the Lord for His care. Things are back to normal for now. Please continue to pray for wisdom for the country's leaders to make right decisions.

We could not go on without our precious Lord's care and provision for us and the ministry here. We thank each one of you who pray and give to reach the deaf and hearing people in Ecuador and beyond.

Serving our loving Father:

Raymond, Anita and Paul