

November 2004

Dear Pastor and Church Family:

My how time flies! I turned 65 this year. For this reason I had to make an unscheduled trip to Miami for one week to get my Medicare started. The people were very nice and they were upset with the embassy here in Ecuador for not being able to help me with this problem.

We are very excited about the progress being made in the ministry of late and would like to share with you the latest developments. **Bible Institute:** The institute year ends this month. There are about 70 students in all. The mother church in Santo Domingo will be taking all responsibilities of overseeing the institute, which meets in seven churches in this area. There are plans to try and organize an institute with the Ecuadorian government. This will give the graduates a degree.

Mother Church: This church has also promised to take more responsibility in helping with some of the new pastors in the new works. This will be a blessing to them and to us. It will make the ministry more secure if we have to leave for reason of ur health.

They also had a family conference last month and it was very well attended. Some were saved and are being disciplined.

Men's Retreat: The church in Santo Domingo and in El Carmen are having a men's retreat this weekend. Over 40 are expected to attend. This is the first retreat of this kind.

Retreat for Pastors and Their Families: We are looking forward to this annual retreat next month. There will be about 37 attending. We always enjoy giving gifts to them, esecially to the children. Some of the Christmas offerings some of you send each year are used for this purpose so, church, you have a direct part in bringing joy to them. This is the time of the year when we share with each other what God has done in the churches during the year.

Project Offering: Please pray about the \$60,000 to buy land and build a church building in Portoviejo.

Furlough: We will be in the States from March until July of 2005. If any of you would like for us to come by, please let us know so that we can set up a schedule.

Merry Christmas: Church, we would like to wish you all a joyous Christmas season, filled with praise to God for the many blessings we have received through the birth of His Son so many years ago. Where would we be without Him whose birth we celebrate! May we, with the angels, sing "*Glory to God in the hgighest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*"

Your missionaries in Ecuador,
Joe & Sylvia