

To our Friends and Family,

Just some thoughts I wanted to share as we have been talking and looking ahead to this year, and what God is wanting to do in us in the coming months. For us, 2014, has been a long year of moving and preparation...not only adjusting to a new culture but also preparation spiritually, physically and emotional. God has healed many things in our lives, and He still has a lot more to do in us. A year that at times has been frustrating for us as it hasn't seemed like we have not gotten a lot done. As the end of the year came and went we see 2015 as a year of expansion, it is something that was in our spirit and God spoke to us through church here as well. We know that this year is not a year for us to sit back and allow God to keep working in us, but it is a year that God is asking us to expand and to begin to get things started that we came to do. And as we begin to do those things He will continue to work in us. This is a year that God will require a lot more from us than in the past year, more time and work, as well as a high standard to live up to.

We want to thank each of you for the time you have invested this last year 2014. We truly appreciate everything you have done, the time you have invested and even for the financial support you have invested. I know at times I haven't communicated a lot of things that we have done or are planning to do. This year we know that we will have to spend more time keeping everyone updated as we begin to start things and as we keep expanding our own lives and family.

As a family we have had our ups and downs through the past year. The kids have all adjusted well even though some times because of the language it has been a little difficult for them. They miss their family and friends a lot. They have made lots of friends, but still miss everyone in the states. They miss being able to go to the Electric Brew to have hot cocoa and a snack, they miss going to the library and playing in the snow. Josiah is continuing to grow and is now in 5th grade, he enjoys learning about the bible and science. Each day he continues to become more and more a man. He still loves to create things with his Legos and anything else he can get his hands on. He has also been learning guitar at church for the past 10 months and recently has entered in the discipleship training as well on Saturday afternoons. Joshua is also doing well in the change, even when he asks each day when his family is coming to visit. This can take a while because he begins naming them all, and when we say that they aren't coming today, he then asks when... it's a never ending conversation. He has been talking a lot the past 3 months or so. His favorite thing now to ask is "Why?" And "What's that?"

He still struggles with the answers that we give him, because he sometimes doesn't like the answers! Abby also continues to grow and has now been expressive and talkative in 2 languages. She has been in the dance group at church and has enjoyed learning dance and how we can worship God through dance. Abby loves to play with her dolls and babies. Shivy and I have also had lots of challenges as we transitioned into living here. It has probably been harder for Shivy, even though this is her country. We had lived there for 12 years in Goshen, that is what we had gotten use to. Even with our differences we have grown and allowed God to transform us and make us more into His image. We are now in the process to open up a café here with Shivy's uncle and aunt. It is something that is also going to be adding to our time, but feel that it is a way that God will help provide for some of our financial needs. We also want this place to be a blessing to others, not only financially, but a place where we will be able to connect with lots of people. We believe that at this café God will bring people to us that we can connect with in order to fulfill His call for us here. It is a small place with a big area outside for tables where people can eat. It is also located right outside one of the side exits of the university and a high school is right in front of us as well. So there will be lots of traffic! We will be selling typical lunches and other foods, but also having desserts, coffee, pizza and foods that aren't as typical.

In this last year we have spent lots of time praying, talking, investigating and writing down our thoughts and plans. Since we got here we also joined the church's discipleship training classes. We have class every week and it has been a good time to continue to grow and to once again study and take tests. In the last several months we have also joined the group of servers at Ministerios Ciudad de Dios. We help out 2 times a month with either cleaning or helping out during the service. We have also been asked to join an intercessors training group, this has been a time that we have felt stretched and challenged by God. We have spent a lot of time and money getting my papers ready, I am currently waiting for the person to review the papers and sign off on it. I will then have double nationality so I can stay as long as I want and come and go as I wish. It has been a long process due to a couple of name errors on Shivy's papers and some on mine. These little issues forced us to go back and fix every single document so that I could then finally apply for my Ecuadorian citizenship. We know that God's ways are higher than ours and that His thoughts are higher than ours. We can always come up with great ideas that might work to a certain extent. In 2014 we spent time asking God... "What His plans are". We spent time reading laws and investigating how to start a new school. As we have discovered some of the requirements

to start we have found out that “our plans” need to be adjusted. We have also felt that God was asking to “wait and know that He is God.” For us it has been a frustrating year at times since we have a desire to start running with what we think will work, but felt very strongly that God wanted us to slow down and to prepare to start running! 2015 is a year that we see as being a very intense year, a year that God is asking us to go full speed. Obviously to get to full speed one needs to shift one gear at a time. This year we know that we can't do what God is asking us to do by ourselves, there isn't enough time in the day. We have been asking God to bring brave people to our side. Individuals who will be able to see and understand the intensity of the year that God has in store for us. We are asking God for people here that will join in on what we are doing that have a passion to bring justice for those who can't fight for themselves. We need professionals, parents, or any individual that has the passion and can feel the pain of the people we will be helping. We will also need people who will join the team we have based in the USA. People, who can intercede on our behalf, people who can help come up with ideas, and those who can help with fundraisers. We will also need people who have heard God's voice and want to support us as a family and also provide financial support for teams that will be coming down. Like I said I know that this year will not be possible without the brave people who God is calling to our side to help fight this fight with us.

Looking ahead to this year there are several things that we have planned to start as we continue in the process of what God wants us to do. Our plans are to open a school and in that way be able to help kids with special needs. As laws have changed and things are becoming more difficult, we are also open to doing what God is asking us to do now and know that He will work things out in His time and in His way. Starting soon we are going to begin having support groups at the church building for parents of children with special needs. We feel like this will be a time that we can impart hope into the parents, and show them that there are a lot of things that even they can do with their own kids. We at first thought that we should start working with the kids, but we feel that it would be better to lay a foundation in the parents so that they can understand the importance of their role in the development of the kids. As time goes on we can see the commitment of the parents and those who are willing to do what it takes to help their kids grow. From there we are also going to be starting times where the parents will bring their child so that we can begin to show the parents how they can work with their child each day. We believe that if the parents aren't willing to put in their own time and effort that there is only so much we can do to help the child. As we work with the parents and with the kids we will also be collecting information

of other contacts here in Manta, and the rest of the country. These contacts will be doctors, therapist or institutions that will be able to help them in areas that we can't. We will also be organizing a group of other people who will be willing to work with kids and parents. Doctors, therapist, teachers, other parents, and other individuals who will be passionate about helping these families.

Along with the work that we are going to begin with the kids and parents we are going to be receiving a group from the U.S. of doctors, therapists and other professionals. This group will be doing workshops like the last group that came down. These workshops will mainly focus on providing information and training for professionals, but will also focus in helping parents understand more about there own kids and how to work with them better. Our plan is to be able to make enough contacts before the group gets here to have a very large group attending the workshops. As this group comes and goes we know that more connections will be made for us to be able to continue working and help even more families bring restoration to their own lives and the lives of there families. Along with that we are in talks with a group of youth from Canada about the possibility of coming down here in July as well. There isn't anything set yet, but we are all praying to see what God's direction is and how this can be tied into what we are currently working on here.

These things are the things that we have planned for the next 6 months! So as you can see it is going to be a very intense beginning half of the year and the last half will be just as intense! We know that God has called us here and that He brought us here at this time for a specific purpose! God has a time for everything and for everyone! For this reason we have been asking God to bring those who are brave to our side, because we know that we can't do this by ourselves. We can't do this even with a few; we know that God has a lot who He has been calling to come along side us.

I know that this letter has been a little long, yet at the same time it is just a brief look into what God has done this last year and what He will do this coming year. We are also including a letter with information of how to reach us. If you feel that you are one of the people God has been calling to join along side us, please let us know! If that means coming down on teams, supporting us in prayer, helping us in other areas or supporting us financially, we could us the help. I do ask that you pray and ask God to show you how you can affectively help advance His kingdom here in Ecuador.

We thank you all once again for everything! The prayers, the love, and the support. It has been a long year for us and we thank God each day for your lives! We bless you and ask that God greatly bless each one of you.

Love,
Jeremiah, Shivy, Josiah, Joshua and Abby