



CRWRC

CHRISTIAN REFORMED  
WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE

*Living Justice, Loving Mercy*

Contact Information:

Rob and Betty  
Roldan-Wood  
Casilla 17-17-1352  
Quito, Ecuador

[crwrc@accessinter.net](mailto:crwrc@accessinter.net)

[www.crwrc.org](http://www.crwrc.org)

**Please pray for:**

-the many who are homeless due to the floods, that they will not become bitter, that the Lord will turn hardship into blessing

**Praise God for:**

-those farmers in Chimborazo who have given time and effort to learn to become better stewards of the creation

# News from Ecuador

March 2008

## Flooding and Farming update from Ecuador

Dear Friends,

It's more than time we sent you some news from our field. We appreciate your interest in the work here and your letters and gifts that make it possible. Like the apostle Paul, we feel we "have a great sense of obligation to people in our culture and to people in other cultures, to the educated and uneducated alike." (Rom. 1:14 NLT)  
You may have seen on CNN the flooding that is taking place in Ecuador. Some

250,000 families in the coastal lowlands have had to leave their homes and over 100,000 Hectares of crops have been destroyed. We have one partner organization in the region but have been unable to visit them as the roads are impassable. Help is now arriving from different countries but it will take a long time for the people to return to their normal lives. Also here in the mountains we have had difficulty traveling due to mudslides blocking the roads. A huge section of a road we drove over last week has now dis-

appeared down into the ravine below and the road will be closed for months. However, the rains have brought blessing to some parts of the country. We were in Chimborazo province last week where Diego Bastidas, a Veterinary undergraduate of the Central University has been working with farmers for the past year to improve their animal husbandry skills and increase milk production. We've never seen those hills so green or the pasture so abundant. On the day of our visit the 15 participants from four communities who had completed the first year were "capped" (with baseball caps!) and received a certificate. Diego (at left in the photo) and the farmers are enthusiastic about the program. We hope to continue this learning process and involve other communities in the next year.



Above: Farmers in the Chimborazo province of Ecuador.



Right: Farmers being "capped" for their completion of a one year agriculture program.

### Progress measured in index pages

On the political scene, the country has not progressed much since the new government took over a year ago. GNP growth in 2007 was away behind that of other countries in the region. Last November the

new "Constituent Assembly" (modeled on the one in Venezuela) took office "with full powers." The President's party won 67% of the seats and so controls the assembly. One of the first things they did was to dis-

solve Congress, so we now have a virtual dictatorship. They are supposed to have the new Constitution ready by May but progress is extremely slow. Some people joke that they have written the index page!



**News Flash**  
You may have seen in the news about the Colombian army killing a leader of the FARC, Raul Reyes, in Ecuadorian territory last Saturday. Ecuador and Venezuela have both withdrawn their ambassadors from Colombia in protest and are sending the Colombian ambassadors packing. Also the Nicaraguan president has condemned the killing of "our dear brother Raul". Hugo Chavez has called the president of Colombia an assassin. **Pray that this conflict on our border will not escalate or result in the deaths of hostages, or taking more hostages.**

### Have you heard of BIRM?

Extracts from the newsmagazine "Vistazo" of Feb. 14: "After 25 years of disbelief and argument, one of the most prestigious centers of investigation in the world unites with BIRM in what could be the last stage before its definite approval as an anti-cancer agent."

administration of BIRM..." The center mentioned above is the Department of Urology of the University of Miami School of Medicine that has been studying the efficacy of BIRM to combat prostate cancer. "With a patent registered in the USA as a medicine destined

to treat this type of cancer, the Institute of Public Health has granted the University of Miami \$1,200,000 to help conclude the studies and convert the product into a new family of chemotherapeutics." BIRM (Biological Immune Response Modulator) is a bitter-tasting syrup obtained from a plant with biological name *Solanum Dulcamara* that exists exclusively in the eastern part of Ecuador, in the tropical rainforest. It has been developed by Ecuadorian oncologist Dr. Edwin Cevallos, who has compiled an impressive list of cases registered and certified by various specialists who have monitored all types of malignant tumors. In many cases these continued to reduce and even disappeared in patients taking BIRM. Other areas where BIRM is claimed to be effective are treatment of HIV/AIDS, Multiple Sclerosis, lupus, rhinitis, asthma, dermatitis and contact allergies. Rob & Betty note: We've been taking BIRM since last November. Whatever else it does, Rob's eczema has cleared completely and Betty is sure she has less wrinkles now! It's expensive, though, \$20 for a 120ml. bottle here in Ecuador and probably a lot more in the USA.



"It reduces the incidence of the tumor, retards its growth and causes a significant reduction of metastasis in an experimental model of the late phase of prostate cancer. Also, no toxicity appeared in the continuous

administration of BIRM..." BIRM (Biological Immune Response Modulator) is a bitter-tasting syrup obtained from a plant with biological name *Solanum Dulcamara* that exists exclusively in the

US  
2850 Kalamazoo Ave. S.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49560  
1-800-552-7972  
[www.crcna.org](http://www.crcna.org)



Canada  
3475 Mainway, PO Box 5070  
STN LCD 1  
Burlington ON L7R 3Y8  
1-800-730-3490