

Go and make disciples of all nations
Baptizing them...
And I will be with you
Always

Matthew 28:1



Ecuador 199?

Not sure!

Doug & Shelly Kallestad

January 2026

Dear friends and family, we pray your holidays were blessed and that 2026 will be filled with Jesus!

Jesus tells us the fields are white for the harvest; people need Him. To pray for more workers to go and make disciples of all nations. God has invited all of us to be part of what He is doing in the world. We never know how God will use a life.

In 1991 on a research trip from Chile to Ecuador, a small group of people were baptized. Over a year later, no word. What happened to those who gave their lives to Jesus? Remember, this was before internet, a time when telephones were scarce and snail mail unreliable. We returned to Ecuador to find a group of 12 believers. Luis Flores, one of those baptized, had kept the group together. Luis was a shoemaker living in a hut on stilts over the river in Samborondon.

Luis has been a church planter ever since. He has won to the Lord and disciplined many of our current generation of leaders. Luis is helping baptize a new believer in the picture above. God multiplies what a faithful heart dares to give. Today God has grown His work in Ecuador to six churches, four Children's Centers and a Christian School serving approximately 2000 children and their families on a weekly basis.

In October, Shelly and I were in Ecuador. We worked with a team from East 91st Christian Church in IN. We were in Samborondon then traveled to San Jose on the coast of Ecuador to work with our Church and Children's Center there. Fabricio and his wife, Landy, are pastoring. They are disciples of Luis.

The second part of our time in Ecuador was spent with an adventurous team of almost 50 Seniors from Eastside Christian Church in CA. While working with the kids at the Children's Center in El Eden, the team provided a Medical Clinic for the surrounding rural community and a carnival for the children. This work is pastored by Gustavo, also a disciple of Luis.



Life in Ecuador. The joy brought by visiting teams!

No matter where, it's always fun traveling with Kyle!



The rest of our trip with Eastside we spent working alongside the urban Church and Children's Center in el Recreo doing medical outreach and assembling a new playground set for the children. Not far from this church is a dirt road that separates a densely populated area with an unknown number of people living there. No census was taken; the police do not go in. The territory is claimed by gangs and narco- traffickers. Yet our pastor drives that road almost every day picking up kids from that area that are part of our center. Many of the adults now serving and teaching in the center came to know the Lord through having their kids in the Children's Center.

Churches have started Children's Centers and Schools in response to the needs of each community. In each location, we have experienced Jesus transforming lives and communities. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing through IAM ministries!
Inauguration of the new playground set in El Recreo.



Praise! Social unrest is not uncommon in the world today. Latin America is no different. We had our share in Chile a few years ago, much of which unfolded in front of our home. In Ecuador, social unrest prior to the elections that took place shortly after our trip, gang violence and delinquency often impact the innocent.

One of our pastors, his son and son in law, were taken hostage when delinquents tried to steal their van. A high-speed police chase and shoot out ensued which ended with the thieves escaping on foot. Even though the van was shot up, miraculously no one was hurt. This happened two months before our trip. The van is repaired now and back to work picking up children in the banana plantations and rice fields that surround one of our centers. We have experienced God's grace upon grace.

While we were in Ecuador, God protected our incredible accounting team when a bomb exploded close enough to their offices to damage the first six floors of their building. They are on the seventh floor, those working left shortly before. The Lord gave us this incredible accounting team at a time when we desperately needed them. Now the accountability of our accounting is something other organizations aspire to. Grace upon grace.

We have experienced grace upon grace because people are praying. Thank you



Meet Alani Mae, Kyle & Vale's first child born on 12/2/25!

Thank you for praying with us about the properties for the school in Ecuador and for the church/ school in Chile. Both properties are substantially beyond our means, yet we know nothing is impossible for God. We are seeking God's direction. We need to grow to better serve our communities and reach the nations, but what does that look like? Does it mean pursuing these properties? Or is there something different? Please continue to pray with us as we seek to walk in God's perfect will.

We are so excited for Kyle and Vale! Alani has Kyle's nose and Vale's beautiful dark hair! Please keep praying for Lori and Niki as their babies will arrive soon!!!

There are no words to express our thankfulness to God and to each one of you for being part of our lives. With each new day, may we all grow closer to Jesus!

Blessings, Doug & Shelly



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Thank you!