



Do you remember the old song entitled, “*What A Difference A Day Makes*”? Well, approximately two months ago (shortly after sending out our last newsletter) Toby received a very unexpected phone call that has resulted in altering the direction of our lives and ministry dramatically.

The phone call was a request for Toby to consider applying for a Head of School position at another international American school here in Ecuador. This was completely unexpected, but there were several elements about the school that intrigued us, and so Toby agreed to submit his resume to be considered.

One element that intrigued us was that the school is located on the West coast of Ecuador at sea-level. For the past year or so, Toby’s doctors have all said that living in the high altitude of Quito (nearly 10,000 feet) was not conducive for the health challenges he has been experiencing (i.e. Hyper-tension and Tinnitus). So, although we were not looking for a move, the idea of getting our lives down to sea-level was appealing.

The second element that intrigued us is that the school is a new campus (just 2 years old) and affiliated with both the #1 university in Ecuador, as well as one of the top K-12 schools in Latin America. And although they are not a “Christian” school, their underlying principles are “Goodness, Beauty, & Truth.” Their core values include: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Thus, they were pursuing Toby because of his perceived alignment with these values to lead the school—yet within a “secular” setting.

The third element that got our attention was their ability to provide a more stable financial situation for our family; one much greater than that of the Alliance Academy International (AAI) — and thus we would not be as dependent upon external support through Ripe For Harvest (i.e. donations from the USA).

So... after weeks of interviews, submitting a bunch of paperwork, a trip to the coast to visit the school, lots of prayers, and the counsel of our closest friends and spiritual advisors... **Toby has accepted the position of Head of School for [Colegio Menor](#)** in Samborondon, Ecuador (located just outside Guayaquil).



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

What does this mean for our future relationship with [AAI](#), with [VISTA Seminars](#), with [Ripe For Harvest](#), the purchase of our new home, our [CaFaith](#) ministry in Quito, and life in general?

Our time at the [AAI](#) has been tremendous. Toby came into the school 7 years ago as a part-time Bible and Music teacher, and was subsequently given the opportunities to serve as the Middle School Coordinator, co-founder of the [VISTA Seminars](#) program, then the Middle & High School Principal, and for the past two years—the Academic Director. It’s been quite a ride... and it will continue!



Toby will be transitioning out of his role at AAI over the next few months in order to give some time and focus to [Colegio Menor](#), whose school-year actually begins on May 4th due to the coastal South American school calendar (i.e. their summer months are

December—February). He will take up the new position full-time on August 1st. However, Toby will remain involved in AAI’s [VISTA Seminar](#) ministry and is already scheduled to present several seminars for [AAI](#) this Fall, as well as continuing to provide Biblical Worldview and Faith Integration training to the AAI faculty and staff.

As we shared with you back in February, we were planning on purchasing a home just outside of Quito. Well, shortly after we made that announcement the legal paperwork has been in limbo, as our attorney had counseled us not to sign the purchase agreement as it was given. So, we’ve been waiting for weeks and weeks for an updated agreement. Thus, we believe this was God’s timing now, as we will have canceled the purchase and now are looking to purchase a home close to [Colegio Menor](#). We’ll keep you posted.

[CaFaith](#) will continue at least into June. We are not sure what the future will be for this part of our ministry. Please be praying with us for clarity of direction.

We will also continue as missionaries with [Ripe For Harvest World Outreach](#) (although less dependent for our personal financial support). However, we will still be in need of your support to continue involvement in the ministries of the [VISTA Seminars](#), whatever the future of [CaFaith](#) will be, and the wide variety of other ministry projects we as a family participate in and support (e.g. short-term mission groups, medical missions, etc.).

Your prayers are appreciated as Toby moves into this new role and as we as a family transition to the coast over the coming months. **We believe that God has provided an amazing opportunity for us to have a broader impact and ministry through this unique opportunity.**

OTHER BIG NEWS...

In other news... We are also thrilled to announce that **the court has officially declared Emma as adoptable! Our next visit to the court should be the finalization of our daughter becoming EMMA TRAVIS!**

Thank you all for your continued prayers, support, and friendship. - *Toby, Tannia, and Emma too!*