

The Church in Ecuador - Growing in Christ

June 2022

**Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old,
they will not turn from it.**

Proverbs 22:6



At a recent meeting of Pastors at the end of May, one of the speakers shared about the church in the post-pandemic time, and how worldwide churches have suffered a decrease in membership attendance. During the time of sharing, we were able to affirm this reality, but we could also confirm that a large part of our churches in Ecuador have maintained and have grown especially in the attendance of children.

A big factor in this growth is that during the pandemic, churches never stopped attending to ministry with children, whether thru virtual tools or face to face in Sunday School, or vacation Bible school, Bible meetings, health and food supply campaigns, school support programs, or home visits, etc. These show in a concrete way God's love and care for the lives of children and the most vulnerable populations.

The children's programs, even in the most precarious conditions, become spaces that children recognize as a place of love and that they always want to attend; in many cases, the church is the only beautiful, clean, and safe place that they have. And this is not only a physical place, but it is special because of the presence of teachers and volunteers who accept them, strengthen them, train them, guide and share the love of God.

On June 1 Children's Day is celebrated in Ecuador and during the week, celebrations and programs have been developed to promote the rights and protection of children. Remembering the children in Ecuador and in the world, we thank God for mothers, fathers, teachers, and volunteers who give their time and their lives as a testimony of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ for every child.

In our daily prayer time each day at 3pm, all the Methodist churches of Ecuador are united in prayer, especially this month we dedicate our prayers for children, for the families and teachers who respond to God's call to form the life and faith of the little ones, with tenderness.

As early as last Sunday, churches began to pray, hearing the terrible news of the massacre of children at a school in Texas. Together, adults and children, we pray for the lives of these little ones, for the families who today suffer this mourning; for all the children who suffer hunger, malnutrition, abandonment, for those who suffer all kinds of violence around the world. We pray for you, we pray for us, we pray that God can give us strength to care for, protect, and educate the children; that in the love of Jesus Christ we may believe and work with hope for a society that respects and raises them in love.

Today we also pray and thank God for the life of every person and every church that commits and offers support for children's ministries. Your love and support mean so much to us.



May God bless you.

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