



Betty Schembera – Retired
WBF Mission Agency
P O Box 13459
Arlington, TX 76094—0459

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” II Corinthians 9:15

Dear Friends,

December 2024

This Christmas season of 2024, I have so much to be thankful for. First and foremost is the birth of our Savior many years ago, who came to give us the gift of eternal life. I'm thankful I have the promise of eternal life in heaven. I'm thankful for the gift of having my family who live close by, and I can see them often. I'm thankful for the gift of friends that I can count on. I'm thankful for the gift of my church where I hear the Word preached and where I can have the gift of sweet fellowship with fellow believers.

This year I was blessed to complete 50 years with the WBF mission family. Dave and I were approved as WBF missionaries to Ecuador in 1974 and we served there until 2000 when Dave accepted the position as Assistant Mission Director with Bro. Tommy Raley in the WBF mission office. I began working in the mission office as one of the secretaries in 2001. Through our ministry in Ecuador, our ministry in the mission office and even after Dave's passing, I have continued to receive support from faithful churches for 50 years. To God be the glory and I am eternally grateful.

I recently received a call from a pastor in Ecuador that I hadn't talked to in 24 years. His name is Ambrosio Ulcuango and he lives and works in a church in the village of Cangaua, high in the Andes mountains, at the foot of a snow-covered volcano, Cayambe. He walks with a prosthesis, and it is difficult for him to walk in those mountains. Gary and Sandy Janky and Ernie and Monoka Brown worked with him and other pastors in that area for many years. He wanted to express his gratitude to us for going to Ecuador with the Gospel to teach his people, also thanking our sending church and current church for sending us. He wanted to tell the churches that support us that their church is standing firm and going forward. All of the missionaries, Bill Hendrick, Charles Bowen, Mel Neill, Gary Janky, Ernie Brown, Dave and others had a part in training him and others from his area in our institute. They are still faithfully preaching the Gospel and starting other churches and missions. To God be the Glory and I am grateful we had a small part in his ministry and the others that are continuing on preaching the Gospel.

Thank you, dear pastor, supporters and friends in the ministry, for your faithful financial and prayer support for 50 years. I hope you have a wonderful and blessed Christmas and pray the Lord's richest blessings in the New Year of 2025.

In His Precious Name,

Betty Schembera
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