

Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup>

Our enrollment is up again! Today we have 49 children and we are scrambling for more craft ideas for tomorrow. Pastor Ramiro told us the children are coming earlier and earlier because they want to be with us. So today, Lynne Taylor found a plastic ball bat and made a baseball from paper and duct tape. We played duct-tape-ball for an hour before beginning our usual VBS class.









Our VBS lesson was about Jesus calling disciples, and about our call to follow Jesus. We constructed a net inside the arc of creation, called the web of life, and on the net we taped individual fish, that the children made during crafts. They scratched their name onto their fish. They also made 4 Disciple

banners with their handprints on them.



The arc of creation and the ark of salvation team members with children (below)







lessons & songs



recreation



recreation



Lunch time. Sandy Manz and Daniel Espitia helped serve lunch today.





childrens' backpacks

I am asking members of the Ecuador team to write for our blog, and two members wrote something for Wednesday. Rev. Arturo Maine writes:

“We say thanks for each day we are in Ecuador yet in no way can we ever say enough thanks for the extremely rich experiences that is ours each day. How well fed we are! Yet most of all, we can never say thanks enough for the greetings that is extended to us each morning as the children express such joy to be with *Jesus*. This mission trip is filled with a sense of generosity that was shown yesterday by the mission church of Atacucha – a community in need of care and sense of worth. Yet they are struggling to begin a school in their building for the many children of the impoverished community. Making investments in a community such as this one, with such promise of what can be, is what we are called to do. *Adelante, Arturo*”.

Bill Moore, of the Southhold UMC wrote about our visit to Bishop Cabezas' home.

“We have returned from a Garden of Eden – the home of the Bishop and his wife, who welcomed us to their home outside the city. Through a large wooden door set into the wall surrounding their home, we entered a sanctuary of nature. Flowering trees and plants, birds, dogs and cats, and an array of orchids that kept the photographers busy for a long time surrounded us. And it was all so peaceful. We walked among avocado and lime trees, and passed a great variety of plants with sweet fragrances.

And then, we were invited into the home of our gracious hosts where we were fed with food and drink and loving hospitality by our hosts. The food was delicious and the sharing at the table was a wonderful expression of Christian love of neighbor. Surely God was present with us. Thanks be to God for all the blessings of this day.



from his orchards.

Bishop Cabezas shared fruit



with 2 of the bishop's 3 dogs

Lynne Taylor spends time

