

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK**

**TITLE:** Peace education project volunteer

**LOCATION:** Quito, Ecuador

**DATE:** As soon as possible

**TERM LENGTH:** Minimum of 10 – 12 months

**RELATED PERSONNEL:** Peace education team, Coordinator Daniela Sanchez, and Quito Mennonite Church Council

**ASSIGNMENT HOURS:** Half-time to full time (20 – 40 hours per week)

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Studies and/or experience in peace studies, social work, psychology or a related area

Experience working with boys and girls.

Preferably has an adequate conversational command of Spanish and if not, upon arrival needs to study Spanish before beginning to work.

Sociable, entertaining and tolerant of children.

Respectful of other religious beliefs, especially Catholics.

Open to learning from the Ecuadorian culture.

Organizational skills and ability to express her/himself clearly.

Commitment to maintain a strong Christian life testimony throughout the stay.

### **ASSIGNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Help with the activities of the peace education program.

Regularly visit the children that are a part of the project to follow-up the teaching they received.

Keep in communication with the fathers and mothers of the families involved.

Take part in the team meetings in which the volunteer would regularly present work reports.

### **ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION**

The peace education project began in 2003 as an answer of the Quito Mennonite Church to the manifestation of violence by several juvenile gangs in the Inca sector. The project carries out peace education and non-violence workshops once a month for boys and girls of the sector who are from 5 to 13 years old. The preparation before each workshop requires a great deal of time choosing a theme, the verbal presentation, preparing materials, and activities. After several years of work the project team feels challenged to keep in better contact with the boys and girls of the sector that come to the workshops as well as their parents. This takes a lot of time. The project helps about 100 boys and girls.

Quito Mennonite Church was begun in 2001 through the calling César Moya and Patricia Urueña experienced as they lived in Quito and worked through the Ecuador Partnership (Central Plains Mennonite Conference, Colombian Mennonite Church and Mennonite

Mission Network). While the initial focus of their assignment was indigenous theological education, they felt called to begin a new church where they could put in practice what they were teaching.

The church is organized with a leadership team including César and Patricia who also give half time to indigenous theological education. The team has good energy and is made up of people excited to be a part of this emerging Anabaptist congregation, though work and family schedules make it difficult to give as much time as the church needs at this stage of its development.

In addition to the peace education work, the church has various ministries beyond its own worship services. A program for Colombian refugees began in 2002 due to the arrival of some Colombian families that were forcefully displaced by the violence. Initially the support came from within the pastoral context and later in material aide, board and room. In 2007 the Ecuador Episcopal Church (Anglican) joined the project providing personnel for the coordination (Trish Morck) as well as economic resources. Then mainly medical and educational aid was carried out. In 2009, Mennonite Central Committee from the Colombia office began to contribute significant economic aid, which made it possible to carry out several programs and activities that provided for various project areas. Some of the refugees become an integral part of the congregation during the period of time that they are in Quito.

The stable average attendance is about 45-50, but the numbers grow depending on how many Colombian refugees are participating at any point in time. Many of the refugees are passing through Quito, so don't become a permanent part of the church.

#### LOCATION DESCRIPTION:

The capital city of Quito is a beautiful historic city with a pleasant climate and good quality medical and communication services.

December 3, 2009

*Mennonite Mission Network, an agency of Mennonite Church USA, exists to lead, mobilize and equip the church to participate in holistic witness to Jesus Christ in a broken world. With offices in Elkhart, Ind.; Newton, Kan.; and Harrisonburg, Va.; the Mission Network supports ministries in more than 50 countries, 31 U.S. states. It succeeds the Commission on Home Ministries and the Commission on Overseas Mission (General Conference Mennonite Church) and Mennonite Board of Missions (Mennonite Church).*