

JOB DESCRIPTION

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK

TITLE: Refugee project volunteer

LOCATION: Quito, Ecuador

DATE: As soon as possible

TERM LENGTH: Minimum of 10 – 12 months

RELATED PERSONNEL: Interchurch refugee team (Mennonite-Episcopal),
Coordinator Trish Morck , 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

Previous experience in handling cases and carrying out programs helpful

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

Very flexible person, who can learn easily, and has a desire to work with needy people and plead their cases.

Some knowledge about displacement and shelters.

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 refugee project.

Regularly visit the families that are a part of the project in order to identify needs and propose action that can be offered to better the lives of the families.

Take part in the team meetings and present work reports.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

The refugee program began in 2002 as an initiative of the Quito Mennonite Church 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 economical aid, which made it possible to carry out several programs and activities that provided for various project areas: aid of food, housing, tiny business projects, medicine, recovery workshops, etc. During 2009 Amelia Brandt served as a MMN volunteer for 7 months, helping as a social worker for families and especially for children who were sons and daughters of the refugees in psychological recovery and pedagogy. Currently the project works with 30 families.

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 refugee work, the church has various ministries beyond its own worship services. They are involved in the neighborhood of El Inca, near where the church first started. After several years of wanting to be more involved in ministry in this neighborhood, finally in 2004 they had the relationships established to begin a peace education project. Monthly workshops are carried out on values to give follow-up to the week of peace education.

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).