

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK**

**TITLE:** Pastoral Accompaniment Workers

**LOCATION:** Riobamba, Ecuador

**BEGINNING OF TERM:** August, 2010

**TERM LENGTH REQUIRED:** One or two years with the possibility of extending it to three years.

**EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP WITH:** Riobamba church council and sending entity. They will also join forces with other personnel of the Ecuador Partnership.

**TERMS OF SERVICE:** It will depend on the sending entity and the Ecuador Partnership. In the case of Colombian workers, the sending entity would be the Columbian Mennonite Church (IMCOL).

**HOURS:** Full time.

#### **BACKGROUND**

After several years of relating to Mennonites, in February, 2009, several Riobamba families decided to begin Sunday services. They were accompanied by Don and Jan Rheinheimer, Mennonite pastors from the the United States with plenty of experience and formal Anabaptist training. The Rheinheimers will end their two-year church work assignment in September, 2010, and will return to the United States.

The Riobamba congregation is made up of around 30 middle-class Ecuadorians. Several of them are professional people with small and adolescent-age sons and daughters. The majority of the people who attend worship services have a traditional Catholic background. However, Beatriz and Daniel Escobar have had experience in other Protestant churches before becoming acquainted with Mennonites. Right now they are serving as co-pastors of the congregation. They took part in the 2009 Mennonite World Conference.

The church has formed a church council with at least a president and treasurer, and is learning to work as a team. They are encouraging each other to develop their gifts and are visualizing plans for working according to the needs in Riobamba. They are growing in faith and practice with an Anabaptist identity.

#### **ACCOMPANYING PASTORAL ASSIGNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

(We recognize that the group and the needs may change before the accompanying personnel arrive.)

Give pastoral support to the people who attend church and to members of the church.

Encourage and support the members of the church council as they carry out their responsibilities.

Support Beatriz and Daniel Escobar as they form and develop pastoral gifts.

Accompany the Escobars as they carry out their pastoral functions.

Use your gifts and abilities to support the congregation in its different areas.

Train new leaders to have an Anabaptist vision and an appreciation for the Mennonite Church.

Serve as mediators in situations that merit it.

Respond to punctual invitations from the Quito Mennonite Church to provide periodical accompaniment to that church.

#### **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

Persons with formal and informal Anabaptist theological training.

Appreciation for the Mennonite Anabaptist vision.

Preferably with pastoral experience, or with experience of leadership in a local congregation.

Speak Spanish well (if they are not Latin Americans).

Adequate communication skills.

Tolerance and respect for another culture.

Openness to dialogue.

Well-formed judgment about Christian testimony.

More ability to accompany than to direct.

Good listeners and reconcilers.

Preferably a married couple, but there is openness for one man or one woman that meet the required qualifications.

#### **ASSIGNMENT LOCATION DESCRIPTION:**

The city of Riobamba is the capital of Chimborazo Province. It is 200 kilometers south of Quito and 2780 meters (8,340 feet) above sea level. The average temperature is 12 degrees centigrade, but during the summer it gets up to 20 or 22 degrees centigrade in the daytime. Riobamba is surrounded by several snow-capped mountains and volcanoes that provide beautiful scenery on clear days. There are approximately 350,000 inhabitants in the city. It has a well-developed business section and paved streets. There are several church buildings and houses of colonial architecture. Riobamba is considered to be the indigenous capital of Ecuador, but a good percentage of the population is racially mixed. The people are friendly and hospitable and form friendships with ease. However they are deeply rooted in traditions and one of those traditions is popular Catholic religiosity.

January 2010