

Disciple-Making Trip to Cloud Forest Ecuador



**Welcome to International Ministry of Jesus!
Connecting Disciple-Makers.**

Our Partner – International Ministry of Jesus (IMOJ) in Nanegalito, Ecuador (Cloud Forest)

Tom and Joan Beak are the original founders and builders of both IMOJ and *The Meeting Place*. The Beak's were late in accepting Christ, at ages 63 and 58 respectively. Their story proves that God can and does use all types of people at any period of their lives. This story begins many years before their conversion and reads like a novel. During WWII, Tom was a young 23 year old inspector of police in the west end of London all through the blitz and later helped design the bomb for use by British aircraft in the battle of the Atlantic to stop the sinking of ships by German U Boats. Afterwards, he became Assistant Inspector of Salmon Fisheries for Scotland then in 1955, the Beak's emigrated to Canada starting the first environmental consulting company in that country and one of the first in the world.

After about 10 years of business success in Canada, they decided to build a 45 ft. steel ketch in their backyard on Lake Ontario with a plan of selling the business and sailing around the world. After a time ocean travelling, they settled on and purchased a coconut plantation on the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean. After two years of building houses, roads and a good water line, a Marxist coup annexed the land, set fire to the plantation and they decided to leave on the boat.

By Gods providence, they settled in the Bible belt in Aiken, South Carolina where they heard and responded to the Gospel. Five years later in 1984, the Lord led them to the north of Togo, West Africa as missionaries. That led to beginning another mission site in northern Benin. During that time they shared the Gospel through digging water wells, agricultural cooperatives, health education, primary schools, educating orphans, microenterprises and training pastors and planting churches. They met the Lords vision of helping to plant 100 churches and digging 100 wells. In 1999, they faithfully followed the Lords prompting to turn the ministry over to local African believers.

After a time, the Lord led them to relocate and purchase land near Nanegalito, Ecuador. They bought the land at the Lord's instruction, but at the time had no idea for what purpose. They began to farm and raise cows for milk to make it pay for itself. The Beak's also prayed about building an adjacent camp on the property for a specific purpose. The camp, *the Meeting Place*, would be set aside so people would hear the Gospel, accept Christ, find Gods purpose, be inspired for service and to build up the local Church. The camp would be used by individuals, families, church groups and people seeking to build up Disciple Makers to send out. It took seven years to raise funds and build the Meeting Place and the 25 acre property has served as a place of beauty, peace and rest where the goal has been meeting HIM.

Bobby Coe, a missionary serving in Ecuador at the time, met *Eduardo Andrade* (IMOJ's National Director) through a mutual friend while Bob was building a camp adjacent to an orphanage just outside Quito. Eduardo previously was a business owner and constructive builder here in Ecuador. He was the National Construction Director for a large denomination in Ecuador responsible for supervising and building over 12 churches in his native country. He spent his young years in California but moved back to Ecuador as a teenager and has lived and served here

ever since. He is married and has one adult daughter. He is a strong Christ follower and received his call to ministry over 15 years ago. He was the preferred host for all IMB teams in Ecuador utilizing his Guesthouse to serve as both a business and ministry to support up to 25 persons. An active Disciple Maker, Deacon and leader in his local church, Eduardo also is the Ecuadorian Director for an organization that meets and disciples 12 couples in his home each week. After serving as the volunteer administrator of *The Meeting Place*, located 45 minutes north of Quito, he now serves as the National Director for International Ministry of Jesus. The vision for *The Meeting Place* is to be a base for discipleship, evangelism and church planting while strengthening the local church. The camp currently can house and feed over 60 people and is situated in the heart of the cloud forest with one of the most abundant flora, fauna and birding locations in the world. Eduardo also shares a future vision for the camp to house and disciple those that are most vulnerable in this society, i.e. widows, orphans and older individuals unable to care for themselves. It is an honor to serve alongside of Eduardo, his family and Ms. Joan Beak to reach and serve the 'Mestizos' or 'mixed' people of the Nor Occidental region and surrounding communities with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please pray for the future of this exciting ministry.

Contact Info

International Ministry of Jesus (IMOJ)

Primary US Contact:

Bobby Coe
bob2inal@gmail.com
P.O. Box 382543
Birmingham, AL 35238
205.718.0025
Skype: bobbycoe2

Ecuadorian National Partner:

Eduardo Andrade
ecgh.qec@gmail.com
Mercedes Gonzalez, OE4-239 y Alberto Einstein, Quito
EC phone 09-99-00-3470

Send Donations and payments:

c/o Sheryl Olsen, Secretary, IMOJ board
1017 Highland Village Trail
Birmingham AL 35242
sheryl@plantationcable.net

Upload Trip Pictures & Videos: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/7Tx0SVT1NzYDG3QAsIIV>

We want to hear about your trip! Please upload notes, pictures, and videos from your trip to the link above. Share it with others in the group so everyone can participate! The images and notes you provide will be used in marketing efforts and could help others make the decision to partner with the IMOJ and TMP!



International Travel Information

General Tips for International Travel

Arrive early for check-in at the airport. Although different airlines suggest different airport arrival times, we strongly suggest arriving at least three hours before your flight is scheduled to depart. This allows time for parking, shuttle transportation, check-in, and security checks.

Label all luggage. Make sure your bag has a nametag with your name on it. Due to the similar nature of most luggage, it is also a good idea to set your bag apart in another way by adding a ribbon, luggage strap, or sticker in a visible location.

Luggage

Checked Baggage

We recommend that everyone travel with just one carry on and a backpack. **THIS IS A CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS TRIPS AND SPECIFIC TO THE CLOUD FOREST BECAUSE OF LIMITED TRANSPORTATION SPACE TO AND FROM MISSION SITE!** We understand there may be a need to check bags to transport materials and information. **PLEASE NO PERSONAL CHECKED BAGGAGE.** PLEASE discuss any planned checked baggage with IMOJ personnel first. Also, hang on to the luggage receipt, you will probably be asked to present it when you get to Quito. Remember that luggage with wheels will make life much easier as you maneuver through airports! Also, be sure to put a copy of your passport information page in every piece of your luggage.

Carry-On Bags

It is always a good idea to keep a change of clothes as well as a small toiletries kit with you in your carry-on in the event of flight delays or cancellations. Your passport counts as your form of identification and you must keep this on you at all times in the airports. You may not carry-on liquids of any kind larger than 3 oz. Any liquids 3 oz. or smaller must be in their original container and in a quart-sized Ziploc bag.

******Baggage policies are based on airline regulations and subject to change. Please visit your airline's website before you leave for their latest baggage policies. ******

Arrival/Departure in Ecuador

You will be able to follow the flow of the crowd as you proceed through the airport in Ecuador, but we've also given you specific information to help this process go as smoothly as possible.

Arrival

Just before your plane lands in Ecuador, each person will be given 2 customs forms to fill out. You are considered a tourist by the Ecuadorian government so you can list that as your reason for entering the country. Do not lose these forms, as you will be asked to present them as you go through customs.

One question on the form asks you where you will be staying while in Ecuador. Please use the following address:

Mercedes Gonzalez, OE4-239 y Alberto Einstein, Quito

Immigration

When you get off the plane in Ecuador you will be arriving at the **NEW AIRPORT**. You will be directed to immigration where you will present your passport and customs forms you filled out on the plane. At the desk you may be asked a few questions, (i.e. How long will you be here?) your passport will be stamped, and they will send you through. They should tear off the bottom portion of the form and give it back to you. Put this form in a safe place, as you will need it when you check back in at the end of your trip. Do not worry if they don't give you one back or if you lose it. You will just fill out a new one at the end of your trip.

Baggage Claim and Customs

After immigration you will proceed straight ahead to the baggage claim area. It would be wise to gather here as a group and go through customs as a group. Please make sure you get the bag that you checked at the airport in the U.S. Do not carry anyone else's bag because soon you will be asked to present your ticket stub that will show you checked that bag in. After everyone has collected their luggage the group should move on to customs. (Baggage x-ray machines)

The Lobby

As you exit customs keep walking toward the exit area. Along the way you will be asked to present your baggage claim stub. As you go through the doors and get to the open area you will see an IMOJ representative there to meet you. If you don't see anyone yet, please wait just outside the airport doors until your whole group arrives, and we will come find you! Do not leave the airport until you are with the IMOJ representative! **IMPORTANT: Do not give up your bags to any local porters. They take advantage of foreigners and will try to take them out of your hand. The bus will be waiting close by.**

TIP - Designate someone to be the lead person and someone to be the last person.
Don't panic, it looks silly.

******Typically, the flow of the week is as follows: Fly in on Saturday night – fly out on Friday. Upon arrival, you will take a bus ride from the airport to Quito (1 ½ hours) to**

spend the evening at Eduardo's house (serves as a Guesthouse and sleeps 25). Sunday, the group will worship in Quito, then travel to the camp in the Cloud Forest (town of Nanegalito) about 1 ½ hours away. On the way we will stop at a volcanic crater. There will be a schedule provided for the week's activity. Normally, the Thursday ministry day ends by zip lining and eating dinner at Tucanopy (about 20 minutes from Camp.) Friday, pack up and head out for Cultural Day in Quito, then you will return to the airport for your flight out Friday night.

Departure

You need to get to the airport approximately 3 hours ahead of your flight time. Once your bus pulls up to the airport, quickly unload all the bags for your team. Every team member needs to find their own bags to make sure nothing is missing. At the check-in area you will be asked to present your passport and ticket. If you have electronic tickets, simply show your passport and say, "e-ticket." If you lost or were not given back your customs paper when you entered the country, ask for a new one here. Simply fill it out again. Please also make sure your ticket has your name on it.

After you have checked-in, proceed to the ticket counter. The exit fee is now included into the price of your airfare so once you've checked yourself and bags in, turn around and go up the escalators. You and your bags will go through a security checkpoint where they will ask to see both your passport and ticket. You will then circle through lots of shops and look for your boarding gate. You also can't bring ANY liquids into the waiting area. If you have time to get something to eat, these restaurants are safe. As always, only get bottled drinks - don't drink fountain drinks – and remember you cannot take any of these things into the waiting area. You don't need to be in your waiting area until 40 min. ahead of your flight, but once you get there they will do another security check. They will look through ALL of your carry-on items for any liquids or other items that are not allowed. You can always find these exact regulations at your airline's website.

Once you get into the U.S. procedures will vary slightly depending on the airport that you're going to. If you aren't declaring anything (most of you won't be as long as items bought are packaged and not living, i.e. plants, animals, fruits, vegetables) you will simply follow signs to the immigration counter. After your passport is stamped and you have entered the U.S. you will need to pick up your bag from the conveyor belts and take them wherever the signs direct you for your airline. Welcome back to the U.S.!

Travel Do's

- DO keep a copy of your passport on you, NOT your actual passport (except in the airport).
- DO use the “buddy system.”
- DO drink plenty of water!
- DO bring any medicines that you may need (pepto bismol, ibuprofen, allergy, etc.)
- DO make sure that any prescription medication has your name on the bottle.
- DO take food that's offered to you - just wait until one of our team gives the okay to eat it.
- DO sanitize your hands before eating. But do it discreetly, not blatantly just after holding a child or shaking a national's hand.

Travel Don'ts

- DON'T go out after dark.
- DON'T go without sunscreen!
- DON'T bring anything that you aren't willing to give up if someone asks for it.
- DON'T drink tap water.
- DON'T use fanny packs, they are a magnet for pick-pockets (**first trip of the year a passport was stolen by a pickpocket**)

General Packing List

*****Baggage policies are based on airline regulations and subject to change. Please visit your airline's website for their latest baggage policies.*****

Clothing

- Pack casual clothing for daily wear - Pants and shirts. Girls can wear pants or skirts (below the knee). Shorts must be knee-length and can only be worn for sports activities and travel. No tank tops.
- Ladies will need one dress for church on Sunday morning.
- Sweatshirt/long sleeve shirt/jacket - Early mornings and late afternoons will be very cool.
- Church clothes - Only those preaching will have to think about a tie. Most ladies wear a skirt for church services. Slacks are acceptable for guys and girls, please just don't wear jeans with holes or shorts.
- Comfortable shoes (an extra pair of tennis shoes or flip flops may come in handy)
- Hat or cap (the sun is very intense)
- **Raincoat (light) *****MOST IMPORTANT – it rains everyday @ 200pm**
- Bring old clothes, you will be working construction or painting (can leave to donate to locals)
- DryFit (exercise/active wear) clothing is best – you will be in a rain forest, clothing will get wet and the high humidity doesn't allow for quick drying

Toiletries

- Pack basic Personal toiletries – toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, feminine items, etc.
- **Insect repellent (100% Deet) **MOST IMPORTANT**
- **Sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) **MOST IMPORTANT**
- Disinfectant hand gel (Purell)
- Chapstick with Sunscreen
- **Towel to use and leave**

Other

- **Passport** (place in your carry-on bag and have a copy in your checked bag)
- **Bible, Journal and Pens**
- Camera, Batteries/Charger
- Flashlight
- Work gloves
- Sunglasses
- **Water bottle**
- Earplugs – Other people snore

*You don't need to bring bedding. However, there is a constant need of new sets of twin sheets. If you bring an extra set to leave please give them to Eduardo the first morning. Any extra things that you would like to bring (towels, children's items, clothes, medicines, candy etc.) are appreciated and will be distributed to people who need them.

Country Information

Currency

Ecuador uses the U.S. Dollar so you don't need to worry about exchanging money. **Do not bring any bills that are old (before the year 2000) or bills over \$20, as you will not be able to use them.**

Safety

Disciple-Making Partners makes every effort to keep you safe during your entire experience with us. We visit every location before sending a group and work with partners in the country who are familiar with the area we will be staying in and working in. We research and plan the safest places for you to eat, stay, work and play. Please always be cautious and aware of your surroundings when you are traveling internationally. Pickpockets are common in tourist areas and in Quito.

Food

Do not eat or drink anything that hasn't been pre-approved. Food from street vendors, tap water, and food are not safe. You should only drink bottled drinks. Our people have been cooking for Americans for over 20 years and are familiar with our cultural appetites and sensitivities. They do a tremendous job of mixing the two cuisines of both cultures. All food and water that is consumed on the camp premises is considered safe. There will be filtered water at the camp to refill your water bottles.

Language

The primary language spoken in Ecuador is Spanish. However, there is a large indigenous population in Ecuador that speaks Quichua. People in the cloud forest are mainly 'mestizos' mixed race people.

Weather

Temperatures are determined more by altitude than by the calendar, so you should pack accordingly. The Oriente region and Quito remain constant year-round: Quito is always moderate (lows in the mid-40s F/6-7 C, highs in the low 70s F/21-23 C), and the Amazon is always hot and humid. Lightweight clothing can be worn year-round in the Oriente and Costa, and sweaters and medium-weight jackets are always needed in the Sierra. Whenever you visit, take a sweater for the cool mornings and evenings. **Layers and a raincoat are also a very good idea because temperatures can vary greatly and storms blow up unexpectedly.** It is not uncommon for the temperature to change 30 degrees in a day and conditions change rapidly and many times a day.

Immunizations – Please check with your physician and the CDC website (www.cdc.gov) to see what immunizations are recommended for travel to Ecuador. *****UPDATE***It is not recommended that anyone pregnant or who may be pregnant, travel to ANY Latin American country due to the risk of contracting the Zika virus (vector borne disease). This is not particularly a concern in Ecuador nor in the higher elevations that we work. Those concerned should take a pregnancy test.**

Co-ed Interactions

Some physical affection between men and women is culturally acceptable. Ecuadorians are naturally very affectionate and you may see physical affection (holding hands, arms around each other) from men to men and women to women. This is not considered inappropriate, so don't be offended by it or react strongly. If someone of the same sex makes an effort to show affection towards you, it is a way of showing their acceptance of you into their culture. Please discourage affection from the opposite sex other than appropriate greetings. **When meeting for the first time or greeting someone of the opposite sex, it is a common practice to kiss on the side of the face or cheek. Let the national take the lead.**

Power

Ecuador uses 110/120vac power for typical household appliances, camera chargers, etc... No special adapters are required to power US equipment.

Cultural Info

You are a visitor to another culture. We are not trying to bring our culture to other countries. Think about visiting a new friend's house for the first time. You want to be on your best behavior, and you want to behave in a way that will get you invited for a second visit. You don't tell your friend all of the differences between their house and yours and all the ways your house is better. We are there learning about another culture and as visitors we must respect the rules of the culture we are in. Just because something is acceptable in the U.S does not mean that it is acceptable in another culture. Pay attention to cultural differences and try to fit into the Ecuadorian culture. Remember that you are representing Jesus Christ in all you say and do!

Cultural Do's

- DO feel free to give gifts, but it needs to be in the context of an activity. Remember the children living in the area know who receives gifts and who doesn't.
- DO drink plenty of water.
- DO wear sunscreen.
- DO be prepared to smell body odor. Stifle your reaction (facial expressions are bilingual)!
- DO compliment babies and play with them. Be aware that women breast-feed at any time and in any place.
- DO remember that you are representing a ministry that has been around longer than you've been in the country and will still minister there after you have left.
- DO ask questions but DON'T try to always 'fix' 'improve upon' or 'find a better way' to do things. They generally have the best methods considering their climate, culture, tools, funds and/or limitations for Ecuador. Be willing to learn from them if you want them to learn from you!

Cultural Don'ts

- DON'T be afraid, Ecuadorians kiss the cheek of the opposite sex as a greeting.
- DON'T be a loud/obnoxious tourist that needs to be toned down.
- DON'T give directly to an individual. Always ask first and give to a national leader.
- DON'T make yourself stick out by wearing inappropriate clothing.
- DON'T make fun of differences in culture. You never know who might understand English. It is safer to just assume someone in the crowd understands you.
- DON'T encourage begging by rewarding the effort.

Daily Schedule

Sat - Thurs Schedule Will Be Provided To The Trip Leader

Friday

Cultural Day

- Walk to Waterfall
- Museum – Middle of the World (Equator)
- Lunch
- Basillica in Quito
- Artisans Market – Shopping in Quito
- Dinner at Mall or airport
- Travel to Airport and flyout

Fundraising

When it comes to raising support for your trip, there are many different options. Listed below are a few we often suggest.

- **Church Partnership:** We strongly believe in the importance of being a part of the local church, and being sent to do missions by that local body of believers. It is important to remember that when seeking support for your trip, your goal is not only financial support, but spiritual support as well. Getting your church involved in your missions experience allows them to know how to best pray, support, and encourage you before you leave, while you are gone, and when you return.
- **Support Letters:** Writing support letters is a wonderful way to inform your friends and family of your experience. Through this letter you are able to let them know how God is working in your life and how He led you to be involved with Disciple-Making Partners. Just as was said above, remember that financial support is not your only goal with this support letter. Gaining spiritual and prayer support through this letter is just as important and a significant way of involving your family and friends in your trip.
- **Fundraising Activities:** Though we feel church partnership and support letters are the two main avenues of fundraising, there are many other activities and events that provide fun ways for your church, friends, family and community to be involved in your mission's experience. A few examples of these activities include:
 - Bake Sale
 - Car Wash
 - Babysitting
 - Silent Auction
 - Dinner or Banquet
 - Garage Sale

As you can see, there are many ways to gain support for your trip. Just remember to be creative in your efforts and trust that the Lord will provide!

IMPORTANT: However you fund your experience be sure and REPORT BACK. Give God the glory. Speak more of what God did in you and less about things you did. You never know how your testimony will motivate and inspire others.

Donations

International Ministry of Jesus is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization committed to globally connecting Christ followers who are making disciple-makers.

If you are planning on raising support for your mission trip, please be aware of the following guidelines:

1. International Ministry of Jesus does not send end-of-year donation statements to individuals (or their parents) for payments towards their own mission trip.
2. Tax deductible donations must meet the following criteria to receive an end-of-year statement from IMOJ:
 - a. Be an unrestricted gift of more than \$50.00
 - b. To fit the criteria for an unrestricted gift, funds received must not be designated to the account of a specific person. There cannot be a name in the memo portion of the actual check. The memo line must be blank. A note may accompany the check for crediting to the trip of an individual or for a general group trip donation.
3. The following donations do not receive an end-of-year statement from IMOJ:
 - a. Donations of less than \$50.00.
 - b. Any check with the name of an individual participant appearing anywhere on the actual check.

***** If you are interested in one-time or ongoing support of the Cloud Forest ministry, all donations can be made out to IMOJ (International Ministry of Jesus) and sent to: PO Box 382543 Birmingham AL 35238. If you want donations credited to a specific project or work, please designate it with a note accompanying the check.**

International Ministry of Jesus suggests that individuals consult with their tax preparer, CPA or the IRS for current information and guidelines in tax preparations.