



Trusting in God

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” —Matthew 6:26

Sierra Ross Richer is 18 years old and lives in Ecuador with her parents, Jane and Jerrell, who serve with Mennonite Mission Network. In the following story, she tells about how she has experienced God.

In the United States, it is easy to make statements like “God gives us our daily bread,” and then we go buy ourselves everything we need. But in Ecuador, I spend time with people whose only option is to trust God to give them what they need.

My family once stayed in a little community accessible only by boat. Our two-and-a-half-week trip had been prolonged by a few days and we had reached the end of our food supply. After we cooked up our last bag of noodles, we returned the propane stove we had borrowed. When it was time to eat, six kids were still hanging out at our house, so we dished up the food into bowls and cups and passed them around. The servings were meager. But the noodles would have to do until we reached the port town around noon the next day. This worried me a little, but my mom reminded us that going without food is normal for many people in the world.

Just as we were getting ready to turn in for a hungry night, a young man from the village came over to our house to tell us that he had prepared dinner for us. I have never been so happy for food in my life, and I have also never seen God work in such a tangible way. I believe that God uses experiences like these to reveal himself to us and to increase our faith. But this can only happen if we are willing to let ourselves enter situations of need and vulnerability.

Questions for discussion

1. What stands out to you in this story?
2. After Sierra’s family cooked the last pot of noodles, what did they do with it?
3. Sierra’s family shared their food with others. They didn’t eat a lot, but everyone had a little. Later that night, how did God provide for Sierra and her family?
4. Have you been so worried about something and had to trust in God? How did you feel? How do you think those feelings were similar or different from the feelings that Sierra had?
5. Close your eyes. Think about how Sierra shared her last meal with others. What is one specific thing that you feel God is calling you to share with someone who might need it? What will you do this week to make sure that happens?

Prayer

God, thank you for all you have given us. Help us to trust that you will provide for us, and to share freely with others, no matter how much (or little) we feel that we have. Amen.



Photo by Jerrell Ross Richer

Building friendships—Katheryn Shiwango and Sierra Ross Richer, in traditional Kichwa dress, participated in a Chaski relay race, a revival of an ancient running tradition.

Our gifts can help support mission in Ecuador.

Mennonite Mission Network supports a variety of ministries in Ecuador. One of the primary ways that mission happens is by sharing the good news of Jesus through friendships and loving our neighbors. In Ecuador, this happens by showing and teaching peace to children. When you give, you help other children learn about Jesus in many different ways. Did you know:

\$5 a Sunday helps provide Sunday school materials for children in Quito.

\$15 helps the church buy supplies for one of the peace workshops with children.

\$25 a month helps *Vida Juvenil* provide homework support for children.

\$50 a week helps provide a safe place for refugee families to come and receive help.

Gift designation. All gifts to support ministries in Ecuador should be sent to Mennonite Mission Network, PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370. Please indicate that the funds are for **“Mission Bank—Ecuador”** or **“Project #1724.”**

▶ For more activities and stories, visit www.MennoniteMission.net/EcuadorMissionBank.

