

Did I give you enough time to miss us???! It was an incredible trip! All of us -the 7 EWBs (Engineers Without Borders) plus Rotarian Petra, Seamstress Crystal, and our Translator/Chauffeur Jill became a "happy family". The honeymoon still lives on. ;-) Wish you were there! (Yes, we even had good weather.)



The welcoming ceremony began with a memorial to Manuel (the recently deceased President of Malingua Pamba) featuring a very powerful speech by Byron Limaico, the "godfather" of our school. The wails were deafening. He is succeeded by his second son, Paulino.



The EWBs then enjoyed some of the indigenous (Quechua) dances plus starred in some. (← In background, our furgoneta & Chevy Luv are "resting" waiting to transport us.)



I will be honest with you - the logistics of moving a group of 12 people was daunting. However, I must commend this amazing group of easy-going, flexible, sensitive, aware people. One of the main reasons for our success/progress was our incredible translator & chauffeur, Jill Sare→. A NorteAmericana who has recently returned to settle in Ecuador. I couldn't have hoped for more on any level.



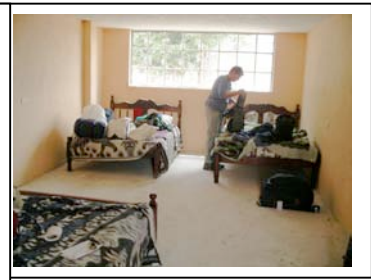
The EWBs collected data on water flows, locations, and water samples, visited homes and spoke with other impacted communities individually, in small groups, and en mass.



We are now waiting for the Denver Professional Chapter to review the data and to move forward on a design(s) as well as a 2007 timeline to begin the Water Project. (See <http://www.ewbdenver.org/ecuador> for more information.)

Things are done by "town meetings" →  
 ...even on cold and wet evenings.

La Segunda Etapa (The Second Story) was finished just in time to be our dormitory! WOW. Both the outside & inside was painted. There were beds for all of us (which meant that our "hosts" had to go without). We did bring sleeping bags (& a French Press, coffee, and solar showers).



Shortly after we left, they put desks into the first 2 rooms (from the left), created a library out of the third ↓ & smallest room, and at the canyon-side, created a computer/sewing room ↓.



In the last couple of days of the EWB #1 trip, we were fortunate to take a trip across the canyon from Malingua Pamba to an EcoLodge called the Black Sheep Inn. This was important to me as BSI addresses water issues from a permaculture standpoint featuring composting toilets (of which M.P. has one), rainwater for washing hands, recycling grey water from their hot showers :-), and a solar water pump. Early Christmas shopping opportunities abound as we enjoyed a morning in the indigenous market in Saquisilí plus an overnight in Otavalo (the most powerful indigenous group that I have encountered in my 59 different countries) where a *whole day* was devoted to shopping. (I am expecting t.y. notes from the "significant others" of the EWBs when Christmas rolls around!)



We had our own sparkly shaman with us - ←Petra, an aromatherapist as well as the eyes for the Fraser Valley RCs.

I think that the taste sensation of cuy (guinea pig) was missed. Hence, I believe that they all must return! Potato tasting has been checked off the list.



### Observations/results of the first EWB Assessment Visit:

- Malingua Pamba and Tunguiche have already begun a joint irrigation agreement. Now they need a plan! Irrigation is clearly their *primary* interest as their lifeblood depends on the quantity and quality of their produce. Tunguiche reported that they were often without water. Interesting fact: lupine seeds (Colorado native flower) is the main cash (food) crop.
- There are some political issues regarding the design and implementation of the project as the Malinguans are upstream from the Tunguichans.
- One stream tested positive for e-coli, a stream used for irrigation. How hazardous is this? In addition, water samples will be tested in depth a Colorado School of Mines.
- Water pressure is an issue for the successful operation of the currently existing hot shower in the "Centro Educativo La Minga" jr-sr high school.



### Other Accomplishments for the School and Community

- 20 new 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- A total of 61 students enrolled in 3 levels (8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grades) with 3 *separate* classrooms and 3 teachers! (C.E.L.M. pays the monthly salaries for 2 of the teachers.)
- Eulalia (see photo →) & Silvia, two of our 4-10<sup>th</sup> graders from last year are continuing their education in Latacunga! They catch the 3:30 a.m. bus (2.5 hrs) for their all day Friday lessons. WOW!

\* You can see how their passion for education has totally captured me. \*

- Crystal taught them how to *hand sew* purses as the electricity was out for 2 days and we couldn't use the sewing machine she brought! She was a trooper!!!



- ←Lautaro and Pedro, my two original guaguas, have applied for the position of librarian and computer room coordinators. Yes - time to *cultivate* reading!



↓Our local guides and the EWBs bid a farewell - Hasta Abril - Until April. Depending on the time line for the EWBs and the progress on the Water Project Plan, I am hoping for a late April, 2007 return. Let me know if **you** want to be included!



We applaud you for your continuing support (both for tolerating my stories and digging in your pockets!).

Abracitos ;-),

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Centro Educativo La Minga,  
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[www.escuelaminaa.org](http://www.escuelaminaa.org)



Our **Web Master**, Michael has Quechua **music clips**, linked two power point presentations, links to all of my newsletters (control your excitement!), and periodic updates including *Current Events*. So feel free to *periodically* visit our web site: [www.escuelaminga.org](http://www.escuelaminga.org) AND to schedule a visit!