Christian world and Ecuador in particular, we rejoice in this Christmas season recalling the birth of Jesus, our savior and redeemer. ¡It is a time of joy and happiness! But not much joy for many Ecuadorians. Studies show that poverty in rural areas, where FEDICE works, by the year 2006., said that the rural poor were 82%, it means 8 out of 10 are poor. For that same year, the poor had $ 1.06 per day, $ 31.92 per month for consumption. Think seriously and act responsibly, following the footsteps of Jesus, who said: "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

The year 2009 was a difficult time, the global economic crisis affected Ecuador. FEDICE suffered the crisis. Missionary groups who had to come to Ecuador didn’t come. Offers of financial support didn’t send. Despite the limitations we have worked with 16 productive projects in the provinces of Imbabura, Pichincha, Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, primarily indigenous and peasant communities. In the provinces of Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, most projects are headed by women. With UCC Southern Illinois Conference, we started to build a Child Development Center in Romerillos, Cotopaxi Province. This group of builders was led by doctors Arnold & Roseanne Franke, it consisted of 12 member of the family Franke. This group is helping us, to equip the Center. The Provincial Council of Cotopaxi has committed support to finish the construction. The center will be named LISA, in memory of the daughter of the Frankes.

Psalm 126:5 says, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." This is what happens to the working groups of the FEDICE. With many sacrifices and tears have started projects, with God's help, mutual support and self-made, economic income have been improved family lives. Here some examples:

**MARIA HORTENSIA TOAPANTA** and her group of women. Born in 1974 in Cochapamba community, Cotopaxi province. She was orphaned, could not finish school. She had to work at home, care for siblings, animals and agriculture. Hortensia married at age 17, has 3 daughters and 1 son. Now, 2 are studying at school and 2 in high school. Since 1996 had a group of 100 women. She is the president. With FEDICE, in 2006, started the projects of raising sheep, cattle, guinea pigs and cultivation of white onion. FEDICE gave technical and economic assistance; training in leadership management and evaluation. She puts her love in actions. She, with tears, gives thanks to FEDICE for all of the aid and support.

**SEBASTIAN CAIZA TOCAGON**, born in 1965 in the community Tocagón, Imbabura province. His parents helped him to finish elementary school. At age 16 comes to Quito for work as a bricklayer. Then come back to participate in an evangelistic campaign, accepts Christ as his savior and stayed in the community. At 20, he married. He has 3 sons and 2 daughters. As a leader he is very active, responsible and creative. Established a nursery forest ecological "El Inca" with several members of the community. FEDICE gave financial assistance. Help them to build a reservoir for the community. FEDICE helped to introduce technology to the work of a nursery. Sebastian, made agreements and contracts to supply trees to public and private institutions. He, convinced of the value of education, helped to create the Technical High School "José Pedro Maldonado. FEDICE, recognizing his merits and virtues gave a scholarship to study and graduate as a Forestry Technician, at the Catholic University, of Ibarra. Sebastian is currently Vice President of San Rafael parish. For twelve years he is related to the work of the FEDICE and he is a member of the Executive Committee.

**INES CLEMENTINE PULLOPAXI** She is President of the women’s community organization in Pupana South, Cotopaxi province, 59 years old. The old story, the parents just let her go to school until third grade. Then she was dedicated to keep the house, animals, and agriculture. Single mother with 2 children and 3 grandchildren married. She is a member of San Francisco women’s organization since 2002, an organization that works with Fedic. In 2005, knowing the policies of the foundation she formed a group of women in Pupana South, her own community, and the work begun with 15 women with productive projects; chickens, cattle, pigs, guinea pigs, corn, beans and quinoa. Now, this group, with 21 family members has good earnings and it helps them to improve family income and cover their basic needs. With tears in her eyes she thanks all the technical and economic assistance that our FEDICE provided.
ROSAÎNO BAUTISTA, Native of Tolóntag community, Quito County, was born in 1949. He was orphaned at age 6. He only studied up to third grade school. He married at age 18. At age 19, he met Jesus Christ as his savior; had 4 children, 2 died. The first died from the persecution against Christians, they were beat and mistreated. Rosalino is a music fan, learned to play charango, accordion, drums and violin, instruments with which they interpret their praises to God. Concerned about educating the youth in his community helped for found the High Artisanal School. He introduced the beekeeping community work, crafts making bombs, tissues. Since 2004, family group develops a project of cattle, with good results. He began studies for a project of community tourism and ecology. He says he has 62 years, "but he feels young and with all energies to serve the people and the community, respecting nature which is God's creation."

MARÍA EUGENIA SANCHEZ- Born in Quito, 57 years old. She graduated in Accounting and Auditing, at the Catholic University, of Quito. She worked at the General Command of the Navy and the State General Comptroller. After her husband death, she went to live in Light of America, Paoló parish in Cotopaxi province. In 2006 she met the Director of FEDICE, Blanca Puma and our work. Maria Eugenia became interested in a project of chickens to help people in her neighborhood. After several sessions we began the work in August 2007, with 25 families. We note that at the beginning there was much distrust of the people, but when they received financial and technical assistance, everything changed. She says "It was very gratifying to see how people responded very well to the FEDICE training". María Eugenia is a beloved and respected leader, and she in turn loves her people with the love of Christ, seeking the best for families.

JOSE MANUEL TOCAGON, 48, born in Inti Huaycopungo (The door of Sun) community, Imbabura Province. He studied until third grade. He had to work in agricultural, to help her parents. He married at age 18, has 3 children. José Manuel, from the age of 22 starts as a leader of his community.. His struggles for land to the peasants, faced trials for taking land, was brutally slandered as belonging to the FARC in Colombia, etc.. He and his family suffered of physical aggression, threat to dead, but Jose Manuel was a strong leader, did not flinch at nothing, His motto is: "Whatever you do, do it by heart, as serving the Lord and not men" "(Colossians 3:23). In the year 2003, he founded Yurac Sisa Association, he was appointed President. FEDICE granted micro credits for growing strawberries in fields of partners, also bought and leased land. Currently have 4 hectares of land. One of his dreams was to add value to the strawberries, so they decided to create a processing jam project with FEDICE help. It is underway to get the Sanitary Register.

ROBERTO TOCAGON CABASCANGO, leader of Caluquí community. Hi is one of 9 siblings. It has 2 daughters and 3 sons. He studied up to fourth grade, his father took him out from school saying "school is not good, the school does not give food to eat, no clothes; our work is agriculture, school, teaches to be lazy" When he was 15 years old, his father sent him to participate in the community assembly. He was appointed Secretary. Roberto responded responsibly. The next time he became president of the community. Since there, Roberto begun a lifetime of experience in leadership and work for holistic community development, he is serving for 33 years. FEDICE helped with the work of medical caravans and the construction of the Child Care Center, "VIOLET GROTH VACA". This is one of the best rural centers of the Imbabura Province.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS HELP WHICH SERVED
FOR THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF OUR INDIANS AND PEASANTS PEOPLE.

Blanca Puma Martinez  
Executive director

Victor Hugo Vaca  
Technical Advisory