

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

It is good to be settled in Ecuador again after a busy furlough and hectic first month back here.

Visitors from the UK



Immediately on my return here, I had a visit from Sue Bennett and Val Hammond from Hope for the Future. They looked at our classes and did some staff training. They met all the students sponsored by HFTF,

including two girls they help in El Coca, a town in the Amazon Rainforest. We logged up about 24 hours travelling time on buses on the round trip. Amazonian rivers, the jungle, a snow topped volcano, exotic birds, we saw it all, and even featured live in an Amazonian radio broadcast!



Next was a visit from Kate Henry and Carol Gupwell, who were doing some follow up work on the ministries they have initiated out here working with the Deaf.

I also travelled to Tena, in the rainforest again, to attend the Convención Bautista Ecuatoriana, the annual Ecuadorian Baptist Convention. It was a privilege to be invited, and a chance to see how the church is thinking as a national entity.

Another weekend saw me in Machala, on the coast, where I attended the 23rd anniversary

of La Primera Iglesia Bautista de Machala. It is useful to network with other Christians and to see how we may be able to extend the work of Life in Abundance through these contacts in the future.

Assessments all Round

I was delighted to see how well all the staff had managed in my absence. Uriel Solórzano did a great job of not only maintaining the work, but also in making solid agreements with other institutions, for example the Rotary Club for acquiring wheelchairs.

Since my return the parents of the children in our classes have had the opportunity to come for an annual review of their child's progress. They were all pleased with their child's achievements.

I have also done staff evaluations, and it is clear that staff members have grown in the jobs they do.

The future

We will make some changes next year. Our second classroom is far too small, and our class in Nuevas Horizontes has never really taken off. I am looking at the possibility of a new location for one of the classes, and perhaps being able to lay on transport for children living out of town.

It is also important that the work we do is recognised at national level, and I believe the way forward is to integrate our classes with the existing Christian Education Institution, La Escuela Bautista. We have considered this before, but I believe we may be more ready to pursue this now, and to this end I am talking to Pastor William.

We are pleased to be participating in the Ecuadorian Olympics for the Disabled, and next weekend I will be travelling to Guayaquil to accompany our entrant, Marco, who will be running for us.

Laura Flores

One of the loveliest things upon my return was to see how the work in Laura Flores has developed under the hand of Uriel. He has a committed team of folk from his church who are visiting weekly. The outreach consists of

a Bible Club mid week, plus Women's Bible Study, and a church service with a children's class on Sundays. Now people are beginning to come to me and say, "Jill, I think we need to do this or that in Laura Flores".

Kate and Carol visited and identified the need for improved early years' provision, and this is an area we would like to move into, working with the community leaders.

We are looking into the possibility of starting a Christian pre-school group, for 4-5 year olds, using a scheme which has proven successful in marginalised communities.



This month we are taking part in a provincial event to highlight the Rights of the Child, and are selecting ten children from Laura Flores who will take photos for inclusion in an exhibition to be held later in December.

We do not have a definite meeting place and are exploring the possibility of having

our own building. The community as a whole are in favour of this, but we need to move cautiously.

Weekly clinic

Needy people continue to attend our clinic. We work with Dr. Andy Gardiner, who gives us medical appointments and often free medicines. Assessing this aspect of our work, we feel it is time for a change. We believe the Lord wants to make this ministry more Christ centred, with more opportunities to pray for our clients. We would continue to attend to material needs, including hunger, of which there is no shortage here.

Iglesia Bautista del Norte

Uriel continues to be the Pastor in this church and at present we are restructuring. I am now a deacon, and am starting again with regular prayer sessions with other members. We want to see the Lord build His church here.

Thanksgiving and new challenges

From this news you will see that this has been a time of great thanksgiving to God for all that He has done for us here in Santo

Domingo. It is also a time to enquire of the Lord about how we should move forward in 2009.

Possibility of a new ministry

We have been approached by someone in England who wants to facilitate the setting up of a ministry for women and young girls in Ecuador, using an existing organisation. We have put in a project plan, and are waiting to see if it will be accepted. It would be a major new initiative for us, and require more missionaries to supervise and run it. We wait on Him.

Thank you all so much for being partners with us to bring God's love to the people of Ecuador.

Prayer Points

Please pray

- ❖ Thanks to the Lord for all He has done
- ❖ Prayer for wisdom in going forward into a new phase of the ministry.
- ❖ Please pray that we may be able to acquire a vehicle.

Jill Ball

01 December 2008

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." John 15:4

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Editorial Note:

We apologise for the lack of new photographs in this edition of Jill's prayer letter. Unfortunately, her computer (with all her photos) is down at present. She intends to send photographs as soon as things are sorted out, and we will then send you a revised more colourful edition! Please pray for safe restoration of her computer without any loss of data or photos!

In the meantime we have included a few pictures from Sue & Val.