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Life in Abundance (Ecuador) Trust

Fighting Poverty with Social Care and Education in Ecuador

bringing Christ's love to the disabled, the disadvantaged and abused

Reg. Charity No. 1106851

Dear friends,

The news that two metre waves were expected to reach the Ecuadorian coast at 17.00 hours on Saturday 12 March following the Tsunami in Japan caused many churches to have unscheduled prayer meetings on the Friday evening. Thankfully there was only an "aguaje", dirty water flooding the coastal plain, and the thousands of evacuees could return to their homes.

Holiday Bible Club



Did you know that you can now receive link letters by email, sent as a PDF? If you would like to receive them this way, and help CMS save money, please contact jonathan.self@cms-uk.org or 01865 787527

Link Letter no. 2 April 2011

For many it was a reminder of the fragility of human existence and the need to know Christ as Saviour. But Praise God, as He has allowed us to continue here.

School

Every child took part in our Christmas programme, which this year comprised drama, dance, song, and audience participation!

Here in Ecuador the New Year means end of year activities, including a trip to the beach, which everyone enjoys. This is closely followed on by the school closure which was a time to celebrate the children's successes.

We had a slight crisis at the beginning of this term, as the new teacher only came for one day! I knew that the Lord had a plan for us, but I was not quite sure what it was. By the end of that first day we had recontracted Ruth, who worked with us before. She is with Maria, now in her third year at the charity. It is looking good. Thank you Jesus!

I talked to a group of parents of disabled children living in a town called El Paraiso el 14, two hours' drive away from Santo Domingo. We

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**Members of Oklahoma Baptist Church
outside the proposed refuge**

drove through a tropical rainstorm, passed a dog sleeping in the road, had an owl almost brush the windscreen and eventually came to this little town, tucked away amidst banana plantations. On the border of at least two counties, it belongs to none – so no local authority takes responsibility for it.

The parents are organising their own transport to bring the children to the school three times a week.

New volunteers

In January it was very sad to say goodbye to Lydia from Latin Link. She did a wonderful job here. We also, unfortunately, said farewell to Cristina from Australia, who helped with the school and with the Holiday Bible Club in Laura Flores.

We will shortly be welcoming Victoria, and Amy, both with CMS. Victoria will be helping out in the school, and in the Women's ministry, and Amy will be using her skills as a speech therapist in the school and in the wider community.

Oklahoma Baptist Church (OBC)

In January we had a visit from a team from OBC. They did an impacting children's Bible club in Laura Flores, and came and prayed over the proposed refuge for women. I am going to Oklahoma in June to attend their Vocational Bible School.

Laura Flores

There were over 65 children at the Holiday Bible Club in Laura Flores in March. I think everyone had fun, as well as learning biblical principles. Folk from the First Baptist Church did most of the hard work, which was exhausting, but well worthwhile.

Christmas at the charity





Trip to Atacames

Alexandra and Mari-Bell will be the teachers of the PEPE programme, now going into its third year. We are actually going to run two, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Sandra from the church is developing a nutritious menu for the children, with mothers taking turns to cook.

We now have our own Community Missionary/Pastor, Rodrigo, whose role it is to evangelise Laura Flores, and other marginalised districts. Part of this work is to head up the weekly Sunday school which we restarted just before Christmas

Rodrigo helps me with visits to clients as well. One was Anabel, whose daughter Genesis has cerebral palsy. The mother has



Holiday Bible Club

to take an important decision about Genesis' future, so we had gone to pray. Rodrigo read Psalm 46, and the verse: *"Be still and know that I am God"* impacted me. The presence of God was so strong that the little girl, who cannot speak, laughed and laughed with delight. We felt that God had answered the prayer

Women's ministry

At last we have started!! The legal go ahead arrived and we have appointed Blanca (Rodrigo's wife) to be our worker in the field. She has been coming of grips with the Ecuadorian legal system and has been accompanying clients in the

Holiday Bible Club



process of bringing abusers to court. It is delicate work, calling for great fortitude and diplomacy. Pastor William is in charge overall of this work, and is studying with "Paz y Esperanza", and independently, to have the necessary qualifications and knowledge to develop this pioneer ministry. We back it up with intercession as we are completely dependent on the Lord to change lives.

New bus

We have purchased a new mini-bus for use with the women's work! It is very exciting for us, and it opens up all kinds of possibilities. So this year we have a very different team and a brand new bus!

Prayer points

- For Ruth and Maria as they meet the demands of the new school year.
- For Blanca and William working with women in abuse.
- For Rodrigo as he goes about bringing God's word to Laura Flores
- For Alexandra and Mari Bell in the PEPE.
- For Victoria and Amy, as they face many new challenges in Santo Domingo.

Personally, I am extremely pleased that I am expecting to be a grandmother again in May, and look forward to visiting the UK in July.

Thank you so much for all your support. Without your help and prayers, none of this work would be possible.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland" Isaiah 43:19.

■ **Donations to LIAT** support Jill's work in Ecuador by funding the school (ie: teacher and child sponsorship) and work amongst the poor and disabled can be made by clicking on this link: <http://www.cafonline.org/charityprofile/liatecuador>

■ **Donations to CMS** are directed by them to Jill to support her work as a mission partner and can be made by clicking on this link: <https://secure.cms-uk.org/dddonations.asp?cartID=M.BAJ&desc=Jill%20Ball>

Jill's prayer & link letters are distributed from the UK by CMS and:

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Jill

Isaiah 61:1-3

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