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Ecuador



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,

Rains of unusual intensity pound on the roofs here; water finds its way into any tiny fissure in window or wall, quickly filling living spaces. It is "all hands on deck" as everyone bails, sweeps and mops, which is good for team spirit but not so good for belongings!

There has been plenty going on...

Christmas in Laura Flores



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

Link Letter no. 5 March 2012

Christmas programmes

Our children caused much parental pride through their confident performances in the play "Papa Panov" and, dressed as angels, through their carol singing. We had a high number of donations of sweets and biscuits this year, and altogether gave out 130 bags, to the children at the school, the children in the PEPE programme, and those at the Sunday school in Laura Flores. *See photos overleaf.*

We also gave out 36 bags of clothes and toys to needy families, all through the generosity of folk, both here, and from abroad.

Some closures

It was no longer feasible to continue with the PEPE programme, so in January we sadly closed it for the last time. It has run for three years, the last year on two locations with two teachers. The programme was a credit to all who participated. We have also said goodbye to CMS short-termer Victoria, who left us on 17 February after a very full year. She will be missed.

And... new beginnings

The First Baptist Church has authorised the planting of a church in Laura Flores. We have rented a small house which will be used

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Christmas in Laura Flores

for services, and for social programmes. It is called “La Iglesia Bautista de Esperanza Eterna” – The Baptist Church of Eternal hope. Rodrigo is the Pastor. We are setting up a Christian literacy programme and workshops to teach people skills to help them bring money into their homes.

Blanca, Rodrigo’s wife and the Co-ordinator for the Women’s work, has an office there. She is planning a series of workshops on the prevention of abuse in the family. She also follows up our clients, including watching out for children at risk of not attending school. With this work it is hard to know where the

church part ends, and where the charity starts. In reality it is all one work. At college they would have called this “*holistic ministry*”, a posh way of saying that we minister to body and soul.

People are coming forward with problems of drug addiction, and we are working with existing organisations to organise rehabilitation. The needs in this community are enormous. We have started a weekly prayer group to support this ministry as it is only through the power of God that we will see transformation of lives.

Christmas in Laura Flores





Performing in Papa Panov

Chocolate

We did our first chocolate making workshop in the charity. Fifteen participants learnt how to melt, mould and set chocolate into bonbons, cartoon characters, stars, flowers and even houses. The women say that they sold their stock with no difficulty. It is a good start.

Worms, bees and flowers

Many thanks to all who prayed for the development of the women's ministry in response to my request on the *Prayerspace* website some months ago. I have found that God often answers prayers suddenly, and just when you are not expecting it!

A retired business woman, Alexandra Véjar, a long standing friend of Pastor William, is helping us develop the land project.

Experienced in project planning and development, she has engaged for free the help of local experts, giving us the technical advice we need. We are looking at projects involving worms (for humus), chickens, guinea pigs, ornamental plants and bees.

Americans from the Oklahoma Baptist Church visited us in January. They are organising a team of builders to come and help us build the refuge. This will be an enormous help for us.

Church happenings

The numbers attending services at the First Baptist Church are growing. Even in the rainy season we are getting up to 50 people in a midweek prayer service. In January we did

Angels



a 12-hour fast with the theme of *Reconciliation with God*. We put a large cross draped with a red scarf at the front of the church as a symbol for people to be reminded of how we are reconciled to God, and what it cost our Lord. Many people went to the front to seek a new beginning in their walk with God. It is good to deal with our sin this side of eternity, because on the other it will be too late! In February we did a six-hour vigil with the theme of Reconciliation in the Family and within the Fellowship.

The dance group did an Israeli sequence with ribbons; a recently formed choir sang choruses in harmony and attempted some old favourites. *"Amazing Grace"* in Spanish sounds really good!

People were encouraged to reconcile one with another, and Pastor William asked anyone who he had unknowingly offended to go to the front and tell him. Some did!

The church is praying for revival, and we are increasing the importance of prayer within the church. We did a 12-hour Prayer Wall, and then one of 24 hours. Hopefully this will be a monthly happening. People are engaging with these programmes, and say they feel much of the Lord's presence as they pray. We also do prayer walks, and give out Christian literature to people as we walk. We left some leaflets on a bridge, which is known to be a place where drug addicts go, and we prayed for a breakthrough.

Speaking personally, I am very pleased to say that my younger son, Julian, and his wife Laura are expecting their first child in June. I hope to be back in the UK shortly afterwards to meet him.

Prayer requests

- For the development of the plot of land in the way God wants.
- For the new school year, that God would bring the

right children who we can really help to the school.

- For Rodrigo and Blanca as they work with the poor in the new church plant in Laura Flores and elsewhere.

Many thanks to all who support this work. In all our activity and busy lives, it is good to remember the fundamentals of our faith. Jesus said: *"I am the way, the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me"* John 14: 6

Jill

- **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: www.cms-uk.org/give

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

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