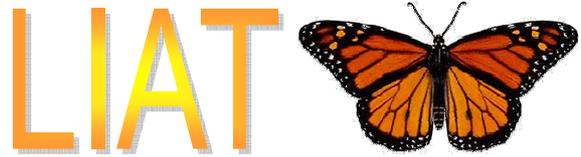




Church Mission Society
Supporting the ministry of Jill Ball in Ecuador
Reg. Charity No. 1131655



Life in Abundance (Ecuador) Trust
Fighting Poverty with Social Care and Education in Ecuador
Bringing Christ's love to the disabled, disadvantaged and abused
Reg. Charity No. 1106851

Dear Friends,

I give thanks once again to the Lord for His faithfulness to us here in Santo Domingo.

We have had a helter-skelter ride since February, with many unscheduled happenings, but we are still here, though not in quite the same form as before. It is good to be sharing a flat above the charity with Katy, a Latin Link missionary.

CLASSES

Our principal teacher, Ruth, left us rather suddenly to start her own remedial therapy business.



This year, our fifth, we have restructured the two classes, and now Diego, who worked with the younger ones last year, teaches the older group, and Maria, who was an assistant, now teaches the younger ones. We all help with everything: supervising break time, cleaning the school, accompanying the children on outings. We have eleven children. I am taking a much more active part (the opposite of what I had planned!) giving regular teacher training to the team. They are doing extremely well.

We now have "hípico-terapia" (horse-riding therapy) on the timetable. Our children get collected by a minibus and taken to a therapy centre, where each child has a turn on the horse (yes, just one) and has a session with a psychologist, as well as doing normal lessons, but in a rural setting. Everyone is very pleased with this arrangement. The smiles on the children's faces tell the tale. We are able to give this therapy through a donation given to us by a catholic church in Scotland.

We are looking forward to welcoming a new STRIDER from Latin Link, Lydia Palmer. She is an occupational therapist and will be helping us in the school.



At this time when we are really stretched she will be particularly welcome. Well, the Lord knew!

CUTS AND MORE CUTS

The alterations in the £ / \$ exchange rate, the significant rise in wage costs in Ecuador, and the drop in donations has led to us having to make some difficult decisions. Firstly, we have closed the clinic. We have also closed the physiotherapy service, and redirected the donation (with permission from the donor) to keeping the charity running.

We have also adjusted the grants we give, again with permission from the donors, to those most in need, and depending on the donations we receive. People are very grateful for the opportunity these grants have given them to overcome in life.

Set against these cuts is the good news that the government is now giving out many medicines to the poor, and also providing wheelchairs and other equipment, as well as providing free physiotherapy to the most needy.



Maíra is one of the ladies we continue to support. She needs to travel to Guayaquil every month to have her son Alex's renal condition checked. She sometimes sells sweets around the hospital to get the money she needs for his medicines.

LAURA FLORES

Uriel still visits Laura Flores once a week, and brings the word of God to a group there.



We are very pleased that the PEPE (Christian pre-school) is now in its second year. Lina, Uriel's wife, administers this. We have over 20 children, and they all look very smart in their new uniforms.

THE WOMEN'S PROJECT

At last we have made a start. Two professionals from the charity Paz y Esperanza, which works with abused women, came to give a group of us two days of intensive initial training. Many of the invited group have themselves escaped from abusive relationships. We were shown film of wealthy women in the United States who had suffered abusive marriages, and there was hardly a dry eye in the house.



Paz y Esperanza will send another team in June to give us some orientation on how to counsel abused women and how to deal with the all important legal side.

Respite House

THANKS BE TO THE Lord we have been given the free use of a very suitable building to use as a respite centre. It is a huge blessing for this work, and we are

immensely grateful to the persons who have decided to lend it to us.

TRAVEL PLANS

I am off to Oklahoma in mid June to visit Henderson Hills Baptist Church to talk about the work of the charity. I know from meeting the team here in January, that this visit will be a lot of fun.

At the end of June I will be coming to the UK, and meeting my new CMS colleagues. Hopefully I will be visiting most of the support churches, and attending my son Julian's wedding to Laura.

PERSONALLY this has been quite a trying time. The work here is the Lord's. He is very gracious to me, and I am ever more aware of His presence. In the Baptist Church we have had many deaths, including of young people, through accident and illness. Life is a precious gift from God, and cannot be taken for granted.

Prayer points

Please pray

- ❖ For the future of the charity
- ❖ For the right person to head up and develop the women's ministry.

Psalm 18 1-3

"I will love you, Oh lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;

My shield and the horn off my salvation, my stronghold

I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised:

So shall I be saved from my enemies."

Many thanks to all for your support and prayers.

May the Lord always shine His face upon you.

Jill Ball 24 May 2010

Jill's prayer & news letters are distributed from the UK by:

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