

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

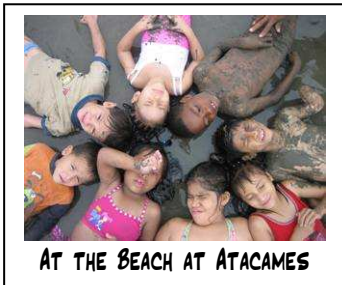
March sees us in the middle of the rainy season. The children are on holiday from class, and we are busy renovating the charity house.

Staff

Our staff, Uriel, co-ordinator; Ruth and Nancy, teachers; Maria and Maria Teresa, teaching auxiliaries, will continue with us, and are joined by Lydia, who helps us with the accounts.

Under the new government of Raphael Correa there are many new regulations with which we need to comply. It can get complicated operating different ministries, but with God's help we will get things right.

Classes



The academic year ended with 13 children in 2 classes. 40+ of us enjoyed a day trip to the beach in a hired bus. All parents want to re-register for next year, & we have a

waiting list.

Ruth is learning Ecuadorian Sign Language to communicate with our deaf children, and she & Nancy are going on an Autism course.



For social, spiritual, cultural & sports activities we will be joining with "La Primera Iglesia Bautista" in the coming year, which will bring our children many more opportunities for inclusion. In addition we are seeking government registration.

Closing and Opening

Unfortunately we are closing the class in Nuevas Horizontes, as only three children attend, but hopefully they will be integrated into the new class we are opening in the Centre.



Physiotherapy

It has been a great blessing having Physiotherapy in house. Many children, those who attend the classes and others, are benefiting.



Tuesday Afternoon Clinic

An average of 15 people weekly comes to our clinic. A typical case is Nelson, who lost a leg after a bicycling accident. He is seeking help to maintain his good leg, and also needs assistance with medicines for his four young children. He barely earns a living by selling sweets on the buses. We are also helping Myra, a single parent with two children, one of whom is disabled. We work with an English doctor Dr. Andy Gardiner who gives free appointments and medicines to our clients.



Laura Flores

Children's Ministry

We have sadly said "Good-bye" to Tim Pawson, who for more than a year headed up our Children's Ministry in this barrio. He has left us with up to 70 children attending per week. In the future the team will be all Ecuadorian, with Uriel at the head.

Women of Laura Flores

Last year Alexandra, one of our ladies in the Bible Study group, was baptised, and we are hoping that others will follow.

We have started selling second hand clothes at very low prices, and Ruth, from the church, has run a weekly card making workshop there. It was going well until recently, when we suffered a setback. Susana, whose house we used for these activities, has left the barrio after receiving a beating and a death threat from drug dealers who

thought she had identified them to the Police. Ruth is not so keen to return.



I am reminded once again of how cheap life is here, and also of why we came to Laura Flores in the first place: to be witnesses of Christ's love.

The Lord always blesses us by his presence in this place. We were thrilled when a lady called Mercedes had a dramatic recovery from cancer. I believe this was a direct answer to prayers in response to my e-mail

ALEXANDRA FROM LAURA FLORES, TESTIFIED TO HER FAITH IN JESUS AT HER BAPTISM

request. Glory be to God!! And thank you for praying.

In April we will start Sunday afternoon meetings, with Uriel the Pastor in charge.

Grants for Education and Treatments

Mothers have been thanking me for the help they have received for the education of their children. Hector and Elver, children of severely disabled parents, successfully completed their year. Brayan, of Laura Flores, has high marks in his report card and very positive remarks by the teacher. When not at school they go out to work to



GLADIS WITH HER GRANDCHILDREN. THEY ARE ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL THROUGH A GRANT GIVEN BY HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. ADMINISTERED BY US.

help sustain the family. Our "Hope for the Future" clients are all making steady progress.

In the coming year Life in Abundance will be administering grants sent from England to support other projects, in particular the work with the deaf in "Fe y Alegria" school.

Fund Raising

On 22nd February we had a fund-raising dinner. We showed a film, made at no cost to us, about the work of the charity. I was particularly moved as we received a donation from a group of parents who had collected money for a day trip, but instead, they decided to give the money to us!!

New Challenges

In the course of our work we have come across Hector, an 18 year old young man with Cerebral Palsy who spends his life lying on a floor in a darkened room, often tied to prevent self harming. We got a local television channel involved, and we went on air with a report. This is a whole new area of ministry. All we can do at present is help the family with basic essentials. I have yet to find any institution in Ecuador which undertakes to care for people with severe disabilities 24 hours a day.

Personal Changes

I am sad to see my friend, Kate Henry, return to the UK after four years service. The Lord always has new things for us and I am settled in my new home, a small town house, just around the corner from the charity house. I moved just before Christmas. At this time I had a visit from a friend



from England, Frances, which was really lovely. At church I did a workshop on worship with dance using flags and banners. Following on from this we did an

"Israeli" type dance as part of the Christmas festivities. This was a first for our church, and was well received. I head up the Prayer Ministry in the Northern Baptist Church; we hold prayer meetings and intercede for the people of this extremely troubled city. I want to pray with folk from other denominations, and have started intercession with some Pentecostal friends.

Prayer Points

Please pray

- ❖ For the staff in our classes in the new academic year, particularly Nancy, who is showing interest in our faith, and that the children and families who come to the Centre would be blessed.
- ❖ For Uriel, who now works full time with us.
- ❖ For wisdom and strength for us all, as we seek to share God's love in a country in which, as Pastor William put it, "There is not so much opportunity as immense need"

Many thanks for being part of this work. I am always aware that without you this ministry would not be possible.

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Isa 55:11-12 (NKJV)

Jill Ball

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