



Beverley Cannon de Pinos

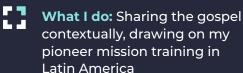
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Location: Ecuador





Bringing hope where people have given up on God and the church

Dear friends,

Sending our love and greetings during this Lent season from us and from all at Cuenca Christian Church/Iglesia Cristiana de Cuenca, Ecuador!

Latest news from Cuenca Christian Church

Lent is a time of reflection, prayer, fasting and preparation to deepen our Christian faith and prepare for Easter, when we celebrate our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who brings eternal hope for all who trust in him. Amen!

Since writing my last link letter, we have been going through a time of change in the church. After prayer and reflection in December, we took a step of faith and asked the Lord to lead us to a new church building which would enable us to reach those in the city centre and to be able to grow. This would require a bigger building in a new location – and all this for less rent! We began the search and with God's leading and guidance, our prayers were answered! God is good and faithful and we moved into our new building at the end of January!



Our new church location

We are so blessed. We have more space for our Sunday worship services and are located in a great building near the historical centre of Cuenca on the river Tomebamba.

We are already finding that new people are coming to CCC after passing the church when walking along the river or visiting the historical centre. Our weekly meetings are growing and it is a wonderful time of fellowship as we serve others.

After our church assembly two weeks ago we voted in favour of holding two services on Sundays. From Sunday, 6 April, the bilingual service will start at 9.30am and the new, Spanish service will start at 11.30am.

We want to reach the locals in the city, especially the young adults and their friends who are now coming from the university in Cuenca. Please be praying for Johnny and me and the leadership of the church as we serve in both of these Sunday services, and that God will bless the church.

The women's ministry is going well. I am now discipling two Ecuadorian women from the church, Shadia and her daughter Amina. Their family has seen such transformation and healing as they have surrendered their lives to God. There is new peace, restored relationships and God is using their gifts to serve his kingdom. Shadia is a talented chef and offers cooking classes through her small business, the Cooking Studio, with her husband's support. She has an amazing talent for baking, and has attracted many other chefs from around Ecuador, both in Quito and Guayaquil, who attend her cooking classes in Cuenca.



Please pray for Shadia as she is praying that God will enable her to work in partnership with us through offering her time, talents and treasures! Her desire is to offer weekly subsidised classes for all to come to the Cooking Studio to cook many different dishes and pastries and to support the church ministry. We are praying with her that God will answer her prayers as she prepares to start in the next couple of months.

In the Orchid Project we are preparing our Easter cards to raise funds for the project, made by our student Linda and volunteers from the Orchid Project. Linda is currently fulfilling her desire to learn to sew clothes. She has made her first shopping bag and attended a course on sewing. She is doing well and her self-confidence is growing.

Farid and Andy, our young adults from the university in Cuenca, continue to grow in the Lord and have finished their discipleship course with Johnny. Johnny is now

mentoring them weekly for the ministry. Both are finishing their university courses and now doing their practicals as clinical psychologists. Andy is working in a cancer hospital and Farid in a drug and alcohol rehab centre. They are already being amazing witnesses to their clients, their peers and tutors as they minister to those who need God's healing.

Family news

Yesterday we celebrated our third wedding anniversary! It was a lovely treat to have a wonderful anniversary supper and to thank God for all his blessings on our marriage.

Our families all continue to be well and Johnny's son Paul and daughter Joy will be visiting us in Cuenca in early June.

When I arrive in the UK on 16 July I will first have some time to catch up with my children, two granddaughters and my two brothers before I visit some of my UK supporting churches. We are grateful to God for their faithful support. I will be attending CMS's summer gathering at the end of July at All Nations College before saying farewell and returning to Cuenca.

We continue to ask for your prayers for our mission here and our church and thank you all once again for all your love and faithful support. I am looking forward very much to sharing more about what God is doing in Cuenca when I meet you.

Prayer points

- We pray for Cuenca Christian Church/Iglesia Cristiana de Cuenca, for God's provision, for the church ministries God has given us and for his ongoing protection and guidance over the church.
- We pray for Bev's visit to the UK starting on 16 July to visit link churches, attend CMS's summer gathering at All Nations College and have time with her family.
- We pray for the presidential elections here on 13 April, for God's hand to raise up the right president to govern Ecuador well, and who will put the economic needs of Ecuador and its people first.
- We thank God for our continued good health and well-being and pray for his strength and protection in our daily lives as we live and serve him in Ecuador.

Wishing you a wonderful Easter!

With God's blessings,

Bev Cannon de Pinos and Johnny Pinos



Photos from top to bottom: The inside of our new church building; Linda running a sewing class for the Orchid Project; Shadia and the Cooking Studio



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I've been encouraged to hear stories from others who are part of my wider area of work. In Honduras, Carlos had a change of heart working with a Christian ministry, and in the UK Garry Ion reports on how Carlisle's Community Shed is sharing skills, community and Jesus. Read more at **churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope**

Please note that opinions expressed in updates are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society. If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this update on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400. Church Mission Society is a Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).