



# Sharon Wilcox

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**Location:** Ecuador



**What I do:** Working with people with learning disabilities, teaching them life skills and seeking to enable them to become independent.



**Discovering creative ways** to share the hope of Jesus with people unconnected to church

Dear friends,

In a couple of days, I will be flying back to Ecuador after enjoying lots of sunny weather, catching up with family, friends and my supporting churches. I was even reunited with my cousins for the first time in 40 years, which was amazing, though sad as it was at my aunt's funeral. We have agreed to keep in touch with each other from now on.

It was also good to catch up with colleagues, CMS staff and others at our Summer Gathering at the end of July. I was especially pleased to catch up with people who did their CMS training with me in July 2012. It was a good time of refreshment and hearing what God is doing with and through people around the world. The last day was an opportunity to meet and thank many of our supporters, who travelled to be with us.

You may have noticed Shaun the Sheep appearing in some very strange places in England over the summer. I met him in Peterborough Cathedral when I visited friends there in August. He was a new attraction for a children's activity. I also spotted him in Reading and Chichester. After that I was able to celebrate my birthday with friends in Hampshire, before spending a very blessed few days with an old school friend and her husband. Very special times.

The rest of my time has been filled with church visits, meetings and preparing materials for classes in October.

The Orchid Project in Santo Domingo has continued without me, thanks to all my volunteers going the extra mile and filling in for each other. The classes began again in June and based on the photographs, it looks like they have been having fun, including learning how to clean cars.



CMS's Summer Gathering

**Support Sharon Wilcox:**  
[churchmissionsociety.org/wilcox](https://churchmissionsociety.org/wilcox)

**With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges**



Thank you for praying that the volunteers would have the confidence in their ability to continue without me. I was delighted a few days ago to receive a photo of Javier, one of the students, attending Sunday worship with his sister and brother-in-law, at the Life by Faith mission run by our friends Roberto and Maria. He had not been there with them before.

The projects in Quito and Cuenca start back this month after their holidays. On the last day before their break the Quito youngsters visited an art gallery and then in August had a day out with their families and the volunteers at a complex with swimming

pools and sports. These social events are a great support to parents as well as fun for everyone.

Please continue to pray about the possibility of a fourth Orchid Project. Things have not progressed as I had hoped during my time away, so I will need some time, soon, to meet up with Pastor William and arrange to visit the area and find volunteers to train, if it is God's will for us to do it. Also please pray for a coordinator for the project once I retire.

My sister and I had a wonderful holiday together in June, and she is planning to come to Ecuador to see me in March, which will be lovely.

I am returning to Ecuador very aware that my final year there will go very quickly. (Though I am preparing to retire, I very much value your continued prayers and support until that time comes.) Please pray that I will find time to visit each project in person and that in my busyness and preparations, I will be sensitive to the feelings of people who may miss me when I leave.

Thank you again for all your wisdom, support and prayers.

Blessings.

Sharon



*Photos from top to bottom: Shaun the Sheep at Peterborough Cathedral; one of the young adults washing a car; Javier at Live by Faith; Quito family fun*



## Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

It's so encouraging to hear news from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to churches. In the UK, CMS's Pioneer Mission Training programme is equipping people to respond creatively to the Holy Spirit beyond the boundaries of traditional church. Read more and get inspired by other stories of hope at [churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope](http://churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope)