



Bev Cannon

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Location: Paraguay/Ecuador



What I do: Sharing the gospel contextually, drawing on my pioneer mission training in Latin America

Friends,

Love and Greetings to all from Cuenca, Ecuador during this Christmas season!

As I write my latest letter, I am conscious you will probably be reading it as you prepare in your homes, churches, and communities for such an important time of the year in the Christian calendar, when we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, Immanuel, Christ with us.

The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ is God's perfect plan for the salvation of mankind. Jesus came as a baby, born in a context where social, political and religious tensions were extremely challenging, something we too are experiencing around the world today.

If ever there was a time to share the hope and good news with our families, friends and neighbours, it is right now. There is such an urgent need for hope, love, peace and meaning through the truth according to God's Word in this world where we live. There is a ripe harvest waiting and yet still the workers are few!

Therefore, we need to do everything we can to participate in God's mission, using our many gifts and talents. We must come together as the Body of Christ and ask our heavenly father how we can all be part of his mission to bring change and transformation in the world.

And this is also the desire Johnny and I have and for the church here in Cuenca, to build God's Church and grow spiritually, to be equipped to reach out to the edges, where he is calling and has sent us out as his disciples to share the good news with the lost, those suffering through injustice and discrimination, those families separated and displaced from their own countries through political corruption and economic crisis here in Latin America and beyond. We pray that you will join with us in prayer and support for bringing this much needed change in our communities here in Cuenca, Ecuador and elsewhere.

Our latest news

Johnny and I are delighted to be able to now officially share that CMS have selected Johnny as a mission associate and renewed my CMS mission partner role in my new context here in Cuenca, Ecuador.

We are also thankful for answered prayer as we moved on 25 November into a new and bigger church building in Cuenca and are so grateful for God's faithfulness and his provision for the church in Cuenca.

In mid-September we visited the UK and had a wonderful time in the New Forest and Oxford. Our small



Johnny and me at our family blessing in the UK in September

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



informal family blessing and later visits to see our close family were a real blessing and we spent a week in Oxford as we continued the process for CMS mission selection and training. We also had the opportunity to catch up with many of you in person and online at the Adelante conference and to introduce Johnny to old and new friends from Paraguay. We were given the opportunity to pray together which was a real privilege for us to lead.

Looking ahead

We are currently preparing our Christmas programme in the church and there will be more opportunities to celebrate together during December with our local communities. We are invited to a churches-together service with another local church in Cuenca.

We have just completed our second ladies' training workshop, where the ladies were taught to make handmade soaps. We will have an exhibition from the soap workshop to give opportunities for the ladies to sell their own products and take orders, improving their prospects of starting micro businesses. Many of these women have been exploited, are unemployed or only able to work from home to support their family. We are excited about being able to invest in the lives of our Venezuelan and Ecuadorian families as a church in simple and practical ways, using the many gifts of others in the church.

This week we had two positive meetings in Cuenca via a local connection with the national director of CECE (La Comunidad de Estudiantes Cristianos del Ecuador) in Quito, discussing the possibility of supporting students and professionals in the universities here in Cuenca through prayer, Christian dialogue and more. We are grateful for all your prayers when we were in the UK, asking that God would open a door into academia and we now wait as the Lord leads and directs us in how we may go forward.

Prayer points

- ▶ We give thanks for God's continual financial provision to sustain and grow the church in Cuenca and for the Holy Spirit guiding Johnny and me and the church leaders as we seek God's plans and vision for the future
- ▶ We give thanks for God's provision of a new church building where we can continue to seek his plans for growing new ministries and activities to equip those serving in the local community to build relationships
- ▶ We give thanks for an open door providing possible new opportunities to create new spaces of dialogue amongst the students and professionals in universities in Cuenca via CECE in Ecuador and pray for God's leading and wisdom in how we respond to the academia in Cuenca
- ▶ We pray for our local church and for my new role as missionary seconded to Iglesia Cristiana de Cuenca/Cuenca Christian Church and the new partnership between CMS and the church as I serve on the board and in my role in women's ministry and mission, seeking new ways for the church to reach out in Cuenca and to the edges of our local community and beyond.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

With blessings, Bev & Johnny



Photos from top to bottom: Cuenca Christian Church ladies' ministry; some of the beautiful soaps and scented pouches made by the ladies during the soap workshop



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