



# Bev Cannon

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Contact details:

bevcannon.depinos777@gmail.com

Blog: bevrichardsonblog777.wordpress.com



**Location:** Ecuador



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

Dear Friends,

Love and greetings to all from Cuenca, Ecuador, during this Lent season!

As I write this letter, I am conscious you will probably be busy preparing to celebrate Easter: when we as God's children will celebrate the gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, who came into the world as God's plan to save us, and by dying on the cross and conquering death gave us life in eternity!

God's perfect plan for the salvation of all humankind is something all Christians are commanded to proclaim – sharing this good news and making disciples around the world still today, following the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18–20.

Therefore, we must come together as one body of Christ and ask our Heavenly Father how we can all be part of his mission, being his disciples and disciplers of others in order to bring change and transformation in the world.

This is the desire Johnny and I have for Cuenca Christian Church/Iglesia Cristiana de Cuenca (CCC), to build God's church and grow spiritually mature disciples.

### Our latest church news

We had a wonderful Christmas Day service and fellowship lunch, and had the opportunity to offer a traditional turkey meal with a British, American, Venezuelan and Ecuadorean twist! It was a really blessed occasion and we were able to share gifts of stuffed teddies (donated to us) with all who attended.

Johnny and I are so thankful for answered prayer – in February we began our discipleship programme at church, in our home and the homes of those in the wider community. We are now mid-way through our 12 weeks of discipleship classes and in total we have 21 adults being disciplined. We are excited as we see lives transformed and past wounds healed.

We have two small groups that meet each Thursday in the church, one at 4pm in English and another at 7pm in Spanish, we have a married couple and their 16 year old son who we visit each Monday evening, and one lady who comes to our home each Wednesday. There are also two youth from Young Life ministries who are being disciplined in their homes by one of our church youth leaders.

God is blessing his church right now. We have had several mature Christian couples from the USA and Canada arriving in the first three months of this year and one couple from Bible seminary wanting to support



Christmas Day at Cuenca Christian Church

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us. All this is encouraging and exciting as God continues to move and sustain and support ministries the church is involved with here and in India and Venezuela.

**Travels in 2023 so far....**

The new year got off to a flying start, literally! I journeyed from Cuenca on NY eve, celebrating the new year onboard my flight to Lima. After five flights, I arrived at my destination: Ushuaia, Argentina, for the CMS Refresh conference – our first Latin America conference taking place at the end of the world!

What a privilege, and personal great experience, to be on the same soil where our SAMS Christian founders set foot and where the gospel was first brought to the shores of Tierra del Fuego! (The South American Mission Society, SAMS, joined with CMS in 2010.) It was wonderful to be able learn so much about the history of SAMS.

We had a special service of thanksgiving in Ushuaia, which was very moving, and received certificates from the local church and a beautiful gift for CMS of a painting of Allen Gardiner, which will hang in the CMS office in Oxford. It was also a personal blessing from me to meet up again with many of my old mission colleagues and friends from Paraguay and we had some special times together.

In March we had a week travelling to the snowy winter wonderland of South Dakota, where I finally got to meet the whole of Johnny’s family in Sioux Falls, and we had a blessed time all together. Thank you to all who were praying for my travel mercies, after not being able to travel to USA last November due to the covid-19 vaccines I received in Paraguay not being accepted in the USA. Praise God for his mercies this time – after receiving my 4<sup>th</sup> Astra Zeneca booster, I was able to board and all our flights and connections went so smoothly!

**2023 – looking ahead to new opportunities**

We are so grateful for all your prayers asking that God would open a door into academia for us. The Lord has now provided us with a new opportunity to go into the University of Cuenca from Wednesday 29 March, and monthly until the end of June. I will be volunteering to help with the Cambridge English exams, and we hope to establish new networks and new relationships with the staff and students at the University of Cuenca and for the opportunity to create new spaces of dialogue for us.

In March we were invited by friends of Johnny’s to the countryside town of Sigsig, about 2 hours from Cuenca, where we had a really blessed time. During our visit, I was invited to come back to speak in April to a ladies’ ministry group that meets weekly in the local church. I would appreciate your prayers for me to bring a message from God that will bless, encourage and edify the local church in Sigsig.

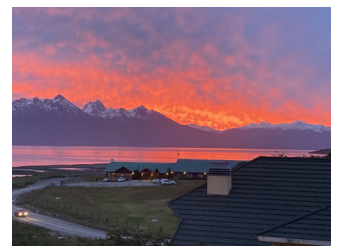
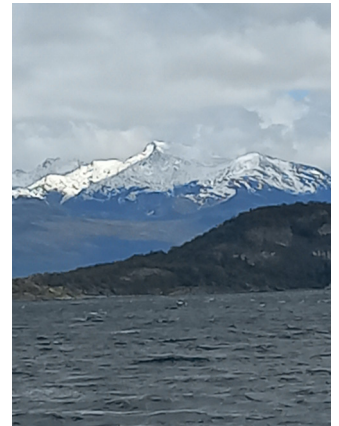
**Prayer points:**

- ▶ We give thanks for an open door providing possible new opportunities to create new spaces of dialogue among the students and professionals in universities in Cuenca
- ▶ We pray for our local church, give thanks for the new growth and for my role as missionary on the Board of CCC involved in discipleship, women’s ministry and mission outreach, while seeking new ways for the Church to reach to the edges of our local community and beyond.

Wishing you all a very Happy and joyful Easter!

With blessings,

Bev & Johnny



*Photos from top to bottom: CMS Latin America conference in Ushuaia, January 2023; Sioux Falls, South Dakota, visiting Johnny’s family, March 2023.*



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