



# Bev Cannon

Link Letter no. 16 | September 2023

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**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!

## Our latest church news

### Family

We had two church weddings in March and August and are preparing for a third on 23 September. We give thanks to God for these three couples and how he is equipping them to serve and growing our church family. What a blessing and honour it is to share in the joy and happiness of God bringing families together from Ecuador, Venezuela and the United States who are full of potential as they love the Lord and begin to serve his church and community together as married couples.

### Youth

We are excited about our youth meetings, which are currently taking place every two weeks, and our volunteers, who are all developing in spiritual maturity and practical service in our church and local community. It is wonderful to see the depth of faith in our young people and willingness to defend their faith with their peers and in their contexts where many are non-Christians.

### Ladies' ministry

Our ladies' ministry continues to grow both numerically and spiritually and be a real blessing for me to lead on the first Saturday of each month in different ladies' homes. It is a great opportunity for the ladies to invite their non-Christian friends, to pray and support each other and to grow spiritually as we study God's Word together. We have just started a group study called S.H.A.P.E. from Rick Warren's church, which I used in Paraguay. The course is about discovering our spiritual gifts and it's wonderful to see that many gifts are already being used in the Body of Christ.

### Travels in 2023....

Our one week of summer holiday was such a blessing for us, as we had never imagined we could go to visit the Galapagos Islands before now but God showed us how and we did so on a small budget! God really amazes us in how he always provides for his children in ways far exceeding our own understanding and we were blessed with both discounted flights and accommodation. We had an amazing time to rest, exercise in nature and relax and enjoy all his wonderful creation. We stayed in San Cristobal and visited Santa Cruz for two days.

My amazing mum, who is 99½ years old, took a sudden turn for the worse in her health and after much prayer and discussion with my siblings we decided this was the right time to visit her, while she was still able



*Johnny and me at a wedding earlier this year*

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enough to enjoy seeing us. My two brothers travelled from their homes in Italy and the UK, and I joined them in Kelowna, BC from Ecuador. My sister has lived in Canada since I was a teenager and therefore it was a mixture of emotions all being brought together with Mum. It was the first time we were all together in Canada and over 12 years since we had all been together in the UK.

It was wonderful to see how Mum improved each day and by the end of the week we were joining in with her at her care group singing along to some of her old favourite hymns and her favourite songs from the past.

It also became quite an unexpected adventure when the local wildfires in Kelowna, BC by the lake meant the local airport had to close and we were all put on evacuation alert. We were safe where we were on the other side of the lake in our hotel and the manager was so helpful and supportive of our situation, but there were a few days of real concern as the winds spread the wildfires to our side of the lake. Thanks to the amazing firefighters and local government things were kept under control and we didn't have to evacuate our homes. It was a great relief to finally leave Kelowna during a night flight to Vancouver and begin our journeys home to our own families. We were blessed with a couple of extra days of seeing Mum at her best before we made our final farewells and again, I experienced God's amazing provision and blessings for this unexpected trip to visit Mum.

### Looking ahead to new opportunities in Cuenca and beyond!

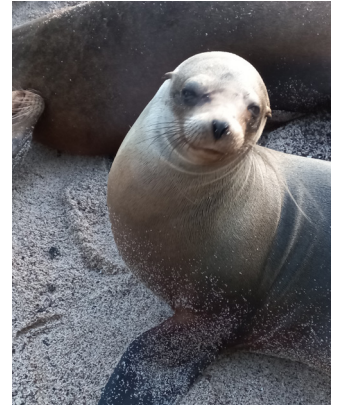
#### Orchid Project/La Orquidea

We had a visit from one of my MP friends and colleagues Sharon Wilcox, from Santo Domingo, Ecuador at our church for a few days. Sharon came to present the Orchid Project in our church and joined everyone in the church for lunch before returning home. God had put on her heart earlier this year to start new Orchid Projects in Quito and Cuenca, so we were delighted when we had seven volunteers and two participants confirmed for the project to commence later this year. Sharon is visiting us again from 18–24 September to train the volunteers and participants and we would value your prayers for God's guidance and direction for the project to begin here in Cuenca.

#### Prayer points:

- ▶ We give thanks for an open door now providing new opportunities in Cuenca through weekly English language conversations with university students.
- ▶ We give thanks for the opportunity to serve the wider community of Cuenca through the Orchid Project, offering life skills classes to adults 16+ with learning disabilities. We pray for the training for the volunteers and participants and for safe travels for Sharon our mission partner colleague visiting from Santo Domingo, Ecuador, originally from the UK.
- ▶ We pray for our local church, give thanks for God's provision, our continued growth and for my role as missionary on the church board, involved in discipleship, women's ministry and mission outreach.

With blessings, Bev & Johnny



*Photos from top to bottom: Visiting Galapagos; a friendly seal; Mum surrounded by her four children; Sharon Wilcox presenting the Orchid Project during her visit*



## Going further with Church Mission Society

**Adelante:** Saturday 23 September 2023. A hybrid event – in-person and online – to celebrate, learn about and pray for mission in and from Latin America. Book at [churchmissionsociety.org/Adelante](https://churchmissionsociety.org/Adelante)

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