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Location: Ecuador



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

Dear friends,

Sending our love and greetings this Easter to all from us both from Cuenca Christian Church, Ecuador!

As I write this letter we are entering Holy Week and we pray for all of you making preparations for the most important celebration of the Christian church calendar, when our Lord Jesus Christ, our Messiah, Lord and Saviour, paid the ultimate price for the world in dying on the cross and paying the price for our sins, once and for all, and by conquering death by his resurrection, when we can celebrate eternal life with him as his children.

UK visit January 2024 – CMS training and PiM conference

Thank you all so much for praying for travelling mercies to the UK. We had a safe and smooth flight, arriving on 11 January and getting safely to our hotel in the New Forest, close to my son, his family and two granddaughters' home for our first few days together with the family ahead of the CMS training in Oxford and people in mission (PiM) conference in Nottingham.



My mum celebrating 100 years!

We also arrived at our hotel in time to wish my mum an incredibly special 100th birthday on 11 January and see her celebrating with my family and her friends at the care home. She not only received an official letter from HRH King Charles but also a letter from the Canadian prime minister, as she now lives there as a Canadian citizen! Well done Mum! She is an inspiration to us all, especially me, on how to live life to the full, without complaint and always ready to smile with everyone!

Unfortunately however, after the first three wonderful days spent with my family, on the eve of leaving my home church after speaking in Sway and visiting my brother, I became ill with a flu virus on arrival at the mission house in Oxford during a particularly cold night.

The first four days' training were online via Zoom, but I could only listen from my bed as Johnny completed his training and then he also fell sick three days later!

We therefore had to cancel our mission training for the weekend in Swindon, but we did manage to improve enough to attend the PiM conference the following Tuesday in Northampton, albeit suffering with post-flu coughs and tiredness, before we headed back via Oxford to LHR and to our onward flights to Cuenca. It took a couple of weeks for us to get back to full health and a visit to the local medical centre confirmed that I had a bad throat infection and hives, which was particularly irritating.



Our latest church news

We give thanks for the continued ministries in the church and in the local community and for the ongoing work with our Orchid Project at church, helping young adults to learn life skills and grow in confidence using their newly acquired skills to serve others. The students and volunteers celebrated Christmas together and we exchanged gifts in the church.

Wedding celebrations 2024

Life in the church continues and we recently led another wedding of a young Christian couple known to Johnny personally. This took us out to Loja, a countryside town about four hours' drive from Cuenca. It was a wonderful

ceremony, and a privilege and honour for us to be part of the celebrations with this amazing young couple, who are so full of faith and hope for the future. It was also a blessing for Johnny to be asked to lead

the formal ceremony, and to see a double rainbow appear in the sky just as the ceremony was about to begin and I had been praying the rain clouds would pass by! The sun came out and shone directly on the bride and groom and even the family cat was there as part of the ceremony!

Seeing lives transformed in Christ through the Orchid Project

Yesterday was Palm Sunday and our two students from the Orchid Project were able to display some of their growing talents by raising funds with their handmade Easter cards and Bible verse bookmarks in the church.

Today in class they were busy preparing many red heart-shaped handmade soaps to give out on Easter Sunday to all in the church, as a symbol of the love of Christ and his heart for his Church. We give God thanks for Linda and Pedro, our students, who are a blessing to the church and as they grow in Christ and serve God in new ways.

Prayer points:

- We pray for our church; for God's continued provision, for all the ministries he is blessing us with in Cuenca and for his ongoing protection over the church.
- We give thanks for our safe travels to the UK in January for the CMS PiM conference, visiting family and for Johnny's completion of his CMS training as a mission associate.
- We give thanks for the Orchid Project, offering life skills classes to adults aged 16+ with learning disabilities. We also pray for more volunteers and participants as we wait on the Lord for his perfect timing.

With love and best wishes to everyone! Bev and Johnny Pinos







Photos from top to bottom: Orchid Project students Pedro and Linda exchanging Christmas gifts at church; a happy bride and groom and a double rainbow in Loja



Going further with Church Mission Society

Jesus never gives up. Neither should we. We live in a fractured, hurting world. It can be tempting to give up: on hope, on people, on the idea that things can ever change. Yet, Jesus invites us to follow him on a journey to the edges. Find out more at **churchmissionsociety.org/nevergiveup**

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