

Link Letter No.2 September 2013

Dear friends,

Firstly, thank you for your continued support financially, as well as through your prayers, emails texts and gifts. It is difficult to believe that I have been in Ecuador for almost five months now. The time is passing quickly. I arrived in Santo Domingo on 3 August, in time for the school's anniversary celebrations.

These included a "Queen of the School" competition, which I was asked to judge along with the president of the Foundation (*Vida en Abundancia* – Life in Abundance). Then on Monday 12 August there was a sports day (well, a football competition for each group). I played for one of the parent/teacher teams, and scored a goal! Afterwards, I was presented with a birthday cake, which everyone enjoyed.

The school open day followed on the Wednesday. The theme was "*The world in a box*". Dorothea (my fellow volunteer at the school) and I made a large papier mache globe, with help from the children in our class. This was then put in a box (one of my large cargo boxes) and opened on the day. It was good to see my box being recycled, and used later by the children as a boat.



River baptisms



Sharon Wilcox

CMS mission partner

Ecuador

Sharon Wilcox is a CMS mission partner working and living in Ecuador. She is working with children and adults with severe learning and physical disabilities, in a culture where disability still carries a high level of stigma.

The following weekend was the 45th anniversary of the first Baptist church, in Santo Domingo, (the parent church of the one in Laura Flores), so we had a day of celebration at the river with nine people being baptised, which was great. We had an American mission partner give a talk followed by the baptisms, lunch and games.

I am working in the school every weekday morning, and then visiting the very poor area



The church in Laura Flores - above and below

able to go to Puerto Lopez, with Dorothea to go whale watching for a weekend recently. It was an eight-hour bus journey to get there, which was quite tiring and hot. We stayed in a small hostel, and were fortunate to see a group of four whales with a baby. Truly amazing! It was even worth the seasick feeling. The sad thing for me was to see the rubbish, left by people, on the beach. It made me appreciate European beaches which have been cleaned up.

For your prayers;

- For my safety when travelling/walking around Santo Domingo.
- That the women in Laura Flores will want to come to the craft group to make things they can sell. This will help their financial situations. Recently only one or two have been coming.
- That the parents will send the children to the homework club regularly, as a lot of parents are not literate enough to help them.
- That the church in Laura Flores will remain open.
- That I will continue to improve both my understanding and speaking of Spanish.
- That I will begin to get confirmation of what God wants me to take on here.
- Praise God that I am beginning to feel settled.
- Praise Him that I can make known what I need/want most of the time.
- Praise Him too, for the support network He has provided for me, here as well as through friends around the world.

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Blessings/ Bendiciones

Sharon

called Laura Flores three afternoons a week, to help with an after school homework club and a women's craft group. Both are run at the church plant there, by Pastor Rodrigo and his wife Blanca. I also worship there on Sunday and help in the Sunday school. The church had been threatened with closure in July, as the owner wanted to sell the building as part of a divorce settlement. However, prayers were answered when his wife decided she didn't want to sell it.

Thanks to a personal gift I received, I was



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