

# ENGLAND TO ECUADOR



**Life in Abundance (Ecuador) Trust**  
Fighting Poverty with Social Care and  
Education in Ecuador  
Bringing Christ's love to the disabled,  
disadvantaged and abused.

Supported by:  
**Church Mission Society (CMS)**  
**The Bridge**  
(part of Southcourt Baptist Church)  
and **Emsworth Baptist Church**

Newsletter no. 4 Start of Aug 2011



**Amy Dawkins**

Speech and Language Therapist,  
working in Ecuador, in a school for  
children with special needs.



Contact me:



*"¡Corre! ¡Corre! ¡Mas fuerte!"..."Run, run fast" I was told as I ran off the side of a cliff.*

*This is because I did a parachute jump, over the sea. It was a real step of faith and in the same way, I definitely feel my journeys here in Santo Domingo have been daily steps of faith.*

#### **TRUST:**

*God has been challenging and stretching my faith here. This past month has flown by and I thank God for his provision. For example, one Sunday I had a difficult start to the day and by the time I got to church I was quite upset, but God provided for me. That Sunday the church had a group of Americans visiting to support and encourage the local church. They were full of life and energy which brought joy and excitement to the church and other organisations attached to the church.*

#### **COMMUNICATION:**

*Everyday I understand a little bit more in Spanish and get a bit more confident, although there are frequent communication breakdowns. For example, I had planned to have a meeting with the director of a school to discuss speech and language therapy. Instead, I ended up seeing children all afternoon, without prior warning and feeling very under-prepared, however I felt God was with me throughout!*

#### **CHILDREN:**

*I am beginning to work with many children in different organisations, all who have special needs or communication difficulties. This is definitely where my heart lies and I am thankful and happy that I offer some help and be part of their lives, even if it is just a little bit.*

*I work in the school for children with special needs (Fundación Vida en Abundancia) in the mornings. The school has 2 classes and the children help each other in class and break time is always fun to join in their play! I have spent this first month getting to know the teachers and children, and supporting in class. Recently I have begun to assess their attention and listening, speech, language and communication skills.*

#### **WEAKNESSES:**

*I have been really grateful that God has been with me the whole time in Ecuador and I am seeing daily, that he is at work. I often know my weaknesses; mainly due to the language barrier and the huge challenges that are before me; to deliver Speech Therapy in Spanish, however I am confident that I have God's power, his Holy Spirit, working through me. Another challenge is the water shortage, so we are all trusting God for adequate supplies.*

#### **SMILING:**

*I smile a lot here. I am beginning to feel settled as I establish some sort of routine and make friends. Many Ecuadorian things make me smile for example; seeing a cake shop next to a dentist, the postal boxes not being lined up in numerical order, feeling very tall here or the Ecuadorian time keeping!*

**Please keep in touch.  
I would love to hear from you.**

#### **Ecuadorian Address:**

17-24-351  
Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas  
ECUADOR

**Email:** [averageamy24@hotmail.com](mailto:averageamy24@hotmail.com)

#### **Facebook**

More photos posted on here

**UK Mobile:** (+44)7951 919120

**Skype:** averageamy

**School:** [www.liat-ecuador.org](http://www.liat-ecuador.org)

#### **Orphaid:**

[www.orphaid.org](http://www.orphaid.org)

**CMS:** [www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org)

**SBC:** [www.southcourtbaptist.org.uk/  
Bridge](http://www.southcourtbaptist.org.uk/Bridge)

**EBC:** [www.emsbaptist.org.uk](http://www.emsbaptist.org.uk)

#### **Follow my BLOG:**

[www.EnglandtoEcuador.blogspot.com](http://www.EnglandtoEcuador.blogspot.com)

Please leave me a comment!

*(There is so much I want to tell you about. Do keep emailing me and asking questions as it helps me know what to write about!)*

**"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."  
2 Corinthians 12 v 9**



The beautiful Ecuadorian coast



1. Whale watching in Puerto Lopez.



2. The basic therapy room in the school.



3. Teaching the children to wash their hands.

### My week at a glance:

My week (very loosely) follows a schedule which I want to share with you. Hopefully it will help you to pray for the children I am working with at different times of the day (and the organisation that they are attached to)

#### Monday:

Morning: 8am-12pm **Fundación Vida en Abundancia** (School). I will be continuing to work 1:1 with the children to assess their speech, language and communication skills and write programs of work for them.

Afternoon: **Baptist Church School**. In this school there are a few children there who would benefit from some extra support with their attention and listening skills, language and speech sounds.

#### Tuesday:

Morning: 8am-12pm **Fundación Vida en Abundancia** (School)

Afternoon: **Baptist Church School**

#### Wednesday:

Morning: 8am-12pm **Fundación Vida en Abundancia** (School)

Afternoon: **Laura Flores**. This is a nearby shanty town. In the mornings the 4 year old children receive an education in the **PEPE** classes. Some of these children require support with their attention and listening skills or talking and so I hope to get some small therapy groups up and running in the afternoon, whilst their mums go to a bible study group.

Evening: Church Prayer Service

#### Thursday:

Morning: Off

Afternoon: **Fundación Orphaid**. This is an organisation where orphaned children live, in a small community. I work with 4 children here who also require a bit of support. It is great to get to know the children and their housemothers. Following my sessions I support a missionary Katy, (who works with Latin Link), when she runs a children's group, teaching them about God through fun activities.

#### Friday:

Morning: 8am-12pm **Fundación Vida en Abundancia** (School)

Afternoon: Off

#### Saturday:

**Sunday:** Church in the morning. Lunch/Afternoon spent with the extended family of whom I live with. UK Sunday evenings can be a good time for Skype.

**Evenings:** My evenings are spent either having swimming lessons or spending time with the family I live with. I have really enjoyed my swimming lessons so far (except for learning "Mariposa" -Butterfly stroke). It is a time to relax and take a step away from the busyness of Santo Domingo life!

#### Questions to think about:

- Why do some people live in such poverty and others don't?
- We currently have a water shortage. In what ways can you be more careful with the water you use?
- How has God been at work in your life, helping you in your weaknesses/things you find difficult?
- Could you support or regularly pray for the work of any of the organisations I am working with? -LIAT/Fundacion Vida en Abundancia, the Baptist church, PEPE classes or Orphaid? (Have a look at their websites for more information)

#### GIVE THANKS:

##### SPANISH:

That I understand a little bit more in Spanish everyday

##### FRIENDS:

That I have been blessed with good friendships in Santo Domingo and that I am getting to know more people in church and the school.

For the kind family I am staying with and for friendships being built with the extended family.

For good continued blessings from friends and family in England

##### SAFETY:

That I have not been poorly

That I have been safe as I have travelled

##### WORK:

That I have begun to work with many children with special needs in different locations

##### CHURCH:

For the many servant hearted people in the church who are working in Santo Domingo, bringing God's love to local people

#### PRAY WITH ME:

##### SPANISH:

To continue to study and practise my Spanish to improve my fluency in talking

##### SAFETY:

As I travel; walking, buses and in taxis

##### CHILDREN:

Wisdom as I work with the children and that I can support them and their families well, making a positive difference in their lives

##### ORGANISATIONS:

I am working with:  
**Fundacion Vida en Abundancia**,  
The **Baptist Church School**,  
Children in the **PEPE** classes  
**Orphaid**.

Pray for the Ecuadorian people who work hard supporting these children and for increasing funds to run the organisations well.