

News and prayer

Well we're nearly there! Nearly at the end of our home ministry assignment (furlough to some). And nearly back to Ecuador. As I write this we are in the final stages of packing suitcases ready to make the 24 hour journey back to Ecuador this Friday. So how has this summer been for us and what lies ahead in the next few months?

2011 Home Assignment: It has been such a blessing to spend time with family, friends and churches - folk who support us wholeheartedly in the work we do with HCJB Global. We have been blessed by people's hospitality and generosity. People have been blessed to hear of all that God is doing through HCJB both in Ecuador and in other areas of the world.

We have received an overwhelmingly positive response from people and churches as we shared about the developments in our roles with HCJB which will see us becoming UK based but more globally focused from next summer onwards. We have lost count of the number of people God has placed in our path who have been so useful in helping us consider some of the practical issues of relocating back to the UK. It is so apparent that God is making the path straight for this big step we will take next year. The level of confirmation of the Lord's will that we've received has very much set our hearts and minds free from any lingering doubts we may have had.

Ben and Lottie have had a great time too. They have reconnected with friends in various towns and developed some new friendships which will be very important as we make the transition to the UK in summer 2012.

In theological terms the Kingdom of God is sometimes described as being 'now and not yet'. It is here now, expressed through the growing global church and God's presence in Spirit, but is not yet in the sense of Christ's wonderful return that we all still long for with great anticipation. Well we have felt a bit like this throughout the summer. We are here in the UK now but our time is not yet. This leads to the next paragraph... we want to finish well in Ecuador...

Back to Ecuador - Back to School: Having spent three months in the UK we now turn our attention and energy back to Ecuador. And in the case of Ben and Lottie - back to school! Ben can barely entertain the idea but Lottie is chomping at the bit! Ruth will be focusing efforts on the Corrientes missionary mobilisation initiative



Ben and Lottie with some of their cousins at Brimham Rocks in North Yorkshire.



Lottie took this photo of Ruth in action sharing at a church service.



Martin and Ruth on the 'field bike' in North Yorkshire where we stayed with friends.



Lottie and Martin 'in role' as milk maid and farmer at Wimpole Farm near Cambridge!

and the 'Entre Nosotras' ladies' group. Both of these will require the training of new volunteers and a successful handover in due course. I will be getting re-established in the role of directing the community development ministry. Things on my to do list will include water projects in Ecuador and Haiti, exploring further opportunities for medical caravans staffed by Ecuadorian church members, exploring funding sources for new projects, orientation and recruitment of new team members, plus much more.

We all will be preparing for and looking forward to another missions team coming from our home church of Mayfield Community Church in Harrogate. The team arrives towards the end of October.

Loose Ends: If you haven't seen our latest DVD yet please email us and we will ensure you get to see it. If you still have a copy of the DVD and have finished using it please tell us too so we can circulate copies to those who haven't seen it.



Ice cream vans! Now that's something you don't see in Ecuador! Ben gets his dream ice cream - a double cone Mr Whippy with two chocolate flakes!

Latest photos will be on our Picassa website once we get settled down again back in Ecuador.

Finally an unusual request! We were blessed this summer with the gift of a... caravan! Coming back to the UK will mean higher living costs for us, so what better way to have low cost, fun family holidays! However we now have the question of where to store it! We are looking for a cheap (even free!) place to store it in Yorkshire from summer 2012 onwards. Anyone got any ideas? It is a folding caravan so when not in use it is basically no taller than a trailer.

Thank you once again for your faithful support. It has been such an encouragement to spend time with many of you this summer. We will be returning to Ecuador with many happy memories of the summer and re-energised to continue worshipping the King. To see His Kingdom extend and play our part in this unstoppable process.

Martin, Ruth, Ben & Lottie

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