

Left: Arriving by MAF plane in the Shuar community of Iñaywa.

Centre: Survey work.

Right: HCJB engineer and missionary Alfredo Leon supervises the student interns.



News and prayer

Thank you! We would like to begin this first prayer letter of 2012 by thanking you for your amazing support for us throughout 2011. We have felt upheld in prayer and have not lacked anything in terms of practical provision. Through you the Lord has blessed us and also the lives of those we touch through our ministry with HCJB Global. Please join us in thanking God for the year past, and the one which lies ahead.

A lot is happening right now so I think bullet points will be the best way to keep it brief...

Martin & Ruth

- Travelled to Medellin, Colombia as a family in December to begin building a partnership with a large Colombian denomination. Potential for training Colombian missionaries coming to the UK, Europe, Africa and Asia. Also discussed water projects opportunities in Colombia. We enjoyed a couple of days holiday there too.
- Orientation of new missionaries from Holland and the USA who are starting work in the community development team.
- Starting to investigate and develop new ministry initiatives that we will work on once back in the UK. Focus will be strongly international and using the UK as a base.
- Trying to contemplate the handover of our roles and responsibilities! We need to begin this process but with the needs of the mission being great it is hard to start stepping back. Pray for us, those we work with, and the ministries as we take steps from this month on towards handover.

Martin

- Dal Dal water project - work progresses at a very good pace. The community has worked hard to capture four springs, build three storage tanks and lay several kilometres of pipe. The small church there is very encouraged by how the community is working together and pray regularly for our home church, MCC, who sent a team to Dal Dal last October. Since the community is so large and on extreme terrain the project still requires almost £20,000 to complete. Thank you to those who have provided some funding for this project.
- Jungle trip - flew with MAF into remote Amazon Shuar communities to do survey work and project appraisal with water projects team members and engineering students from Calvin College in the USA. It was a great opportunity to encourage the Project Coordinator for this area, initiate our new missionaries and feed grilled giant grubs to unsuspecting college students! [Click here for photos!](#)



Jungle food! These giant grubs about 3 inches long were indeed the grub on offer!



Martin bites into a big juicy one!



Shuar children show off clean hands.



This Tarantula was bigger than my hand! We found him in the room where we were sleeping!

- Elders vision day - No, not eye tests! Rather a day for prayer and vision. Martin has been an elder for almost two years at the international church in Quito - English Fellowship Church.

Ruth

- Ruth has been very busy in her new role as Education Representative in the mission. Tasks include leadership team meetings, coordinating discussion between educators, sitting on a 'task force' for exploring new models for education ministries, explaining education ministries to visitors, and attending a week long leadership course.
- In Corrientes we saw four new candidates enter the missionary mentoring programme. Three will serve in Asia. Ruth took part in the commissioning service of a previous Corrientes candidate who flew out last week to the Middle East.

Ben & Lottie

- As mentioned in our last prayer letter Lottie sang in the Quito day concerts with the HCJB choir. It was an incredible experience she will never forget. [Photos here.](#)
- Ben has just played his second trombone recital. Fortunately he was off crutches after starting the new year with a fractured heel!
- Both enjoyed Christmas and are very excited about their grandparents' (Unsworth) arrival this week.



Ruth and Lottie in Medellin, Colombia.



A house church we visited in a suburb of Medellin. 60 were packed into the upper rooms of a small house. The (limited) space didn't matter, they were there to worship God.

- They enjoyed all the Christmas cards and presents, most of which arrived in January! We like to extend the festive season!
- Pray for UK school applications. We hear on March 1st whether Ben has a place at St. Aidan's in Harrogate and we need to approach primary schools about a place for Lottie.
- Lottie's birthday - Feb 7th.

Next Steps: Next month we will bring you fully up to date with how plans are progressing to move back to the UK this summer and take up new roles with HCJB Global, still as missionaries, and still with a strongly international focus.

We are now entering the stage of working out how we will move house a quarter of the way round the

world, using only suitcases! Pickfords would be much easier but we don't have that option! Suffice to say we are beginning to either sell or give things away. The money we raise will be put into a home start-up fund to help us get set up again in the UK since we will arrive only with whatever is in our suitcases!

Also of note this month is the fact that it is nine years exactly since we applied to join HCJB Global. We were filling out the application just days before Lottie was born! Thanks for your support, prayers and friendship over these nine years. Without you none of this would have been possible.

Martin, Ruth, Ben & Lottie

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