

PROJECT



Casilla 1724-351
Santo Domingo de los Colorados
Ecuador

andyelaine@doctors.org.uk

00593999863868

28th February 2014

Dear Friends

Greetings from a hot and wet Santo Domingo! The rainy season is in full force and making our road a sea of mud as it is being dug up at the moment to be widened. Everything is a mess! This morning we felt a strong earth tremor, as a volcano near Baños in Ecuador is erupting at the moment. Never a dull moment!

Children's Work

It was wonderful to be able to give out gifts to the local children in 7 schools this Christmas. Thank you to all who contributed to our appeal and made this possible.



Likewise the sponsored children were all delighted to receive a gift at Christmas. I always include a Christian book in all the gifts, which the children love as they have so very few books available to read.



The sponsored children are currently doing their end of year exams as the summer holidays start the first week of March. I will then gather their school reports to translate them for the sponsors.

We are delighted to have one hundred children sponsored now. These children never have the chance to do any extra-curricular activities. This year I am able to give 10 of the best students a grant for the holidays so that they can learn a new skill. Alison wants to learn the keyboard. Lesly wants to learn a new craft. Daniela wants to do swimming. They are all very excited to have this opportunity.

Andes Creations



The sewing group have been working on some new designs using Ecuadorean fabrics. We now have some bags, bunting and pencil cases available. Please ask Maryon maf@freeuk.com if you are interested in purchasing any of the crafts.

Lorena is fifteen and lost her father to cancer last year. She sews to help pay her bus fares so she can continue going to secondary school. Jacqueline is a young single Mum. She sews to buy food for herself and her little baby Emily. Thank you for supporting this project.

Health Centre

I continue to attend the regular stream of patients in the health centre in the afternoons. At the moment I am in the midst of doing the papers to renew the annual permit. I have now done the dengue test they introduced this year, and I am waiting for the inspection. Every year brings new regulations, so I hope it will not be too complicated to comply with.

Hortencia, my auxiliary, is continuing chemotherapy for breast cancer and would appreciate your ongoing prayers.

Housing



Three houses have now been completed. The first is for the Martinez family and was built with the able help of Rachel and Lee Williamson. The second is for a lady who has had double leg amputations due to diabetes. She is a refugee from Colombia. Her daughter and granddaughter are pictured here. The house now has its window protections on and the family has moved in. The third is on our farm for a family without a home to live in free of charge. This will also give us increased security with the high risk of theft at present.



Two more families have been selected to receive the next two houses which Rachel and Lee raised funds for. The first family is Efren, his wife and three teenage children. Efren used to be a drug trafficker. He left his wife for another woman with whom he had a daughter. His second wife then committed suicide. Efren became a Christian five years ago, has been reunited with his first wife and completely renounced all drugs and alcohol. It is a miraculous transformation. He now works in the fields to provide for his family. His wife is a wonderful step-mum to his daughter. They have a small piece of land but no house, so we are pleased to be able to help them with the materials for one. They will provide the labour themselves under Vladimir's supervision. The second house is for Alba. She is the single Mum of two young children and has no house. Her father will be helping her to build the house. These houses will be built once the rainy season stops in May or thereabouts.

Farm/Campsite

In between house building Vladimir keeps plugging away at building the campsite. They are currently finishing off the swimming pool. The next big thing is the dining area to be constructed.

Books

Copies of Guinea Pig for Breakfast and The Adventures of Tamarita Rachel are

available from Maryon mafg@freeuk.com I have completed a first draft of a sequel to Guinea Pig. It tells more stories of life here, but also explores the Ecuadorean attitude to suffering and God. I will be exploring editing and ways to have it published in the coming months, so watch this space!

Family News

We are delighted to have Vladimir's brother and his wife now living nearby with their baby Francesca. (They were living in Spain). Andy also has a new nephew born to Peter in June and a new niece born to Rachel in December.

Tamara has now finished her first year of Primary school at home. She loves learning and is doing well. She also loves her gymnastics/dance class. Emily has also enjoyed learning at home. She has a great imagination and loves to tell stories.



We are extremely thankful to have the internet in our own home at last. It makes both the girls' studies and skyping family so much easier. It is a wonderful blessing.

God bless you and yours as you serve Him.

Andy, Vladimir, Tamara and Emily.

