

News and Prayer Updates from Quito

Gavin & Heather Falconer in Ecuador with Reach Beyond

2nd March 2022

Heather and I are delighted to send greetings to all our friends and supporters from our new home in Ecuador, with heartfelt thanks to all those who have helped us to get here. We have been astonished by the levels of support and encouragement we have received. We hope and pray that, as we have received blessings, we will be given ample opportunity to pour out God's blessings into the lives of those that He brings us into contact with.



We completed our induction into Reach Beyond UK in January, making new friends along the way. This included a short but intensive crash course in cultural awareness, with time to receive some important Godly insights into how we might best fit into a multicultural mission team. Then it was all hands on deck, with our church family helping us move out of our house. We owe special thanks to Heather's brother and his wife for hosting us for our last few nights in the UK, which turned out to be longer than expected thanks to the disruption of flights caused by storm Corrie.

Thankfully, we arrived safely in Ecuador only a couple of days later than planned. We have been blessed with a spacious and quaint (and very yellow!) house in a tranquil and secure location in the town of Tumbaco, close to the riding centre where Heather will work. We allowed ourselves a week of quarantine and rest in our new house before taking ourselves to Quito city for a couple of weeks.

It was important to familiarise ourselves with Quito, where Gavin will be working. In our time there, we met with some of the Reach Beyond/Voz y Manos team, and we got to know more about the work of Hospital Vozandes. We also started our Spanish language classes, which is our immediate focus. Despite a few mishaps and misadventures navigating the Quito public transport system, we did get to class on time most days.

Having completed two weeks of classes in a language school in Quito, we have now moved back to Tumbaco. We have an excellent Spanish teacher who comes to our house for a few hours each day; we will continue to dedicate ourselves to Spanish language learning for one more week before inflicting our limited vocabulary and halting speech on our new colleagues and friends.

Heather will be delivering physiotherapy and hippotherapy services for Fundacion Am-En (<http://fundacionamen.org/?lang=en>)

Gavin will mostly be providing IT support for Hospital Vozandes (<https://hospitalvozandes.com/en/>) plus exploring and helping out with other Reach Beyond ministries in and around Quito (<https://reachbeyond.org.uk/about-us/where-we-work/worldwide/latin-america>).

If you would like hear a little more about how God has guided us to move to Ecuador, you can watch an interview that was recorded as part of our commissioning service at our home church of St Mungos, via <https://stmungos.org/news/interview-with-gavin-and-heather-falconer>.

Prayer Points

Give thanks for:

- Our safe arrival in Ecuador, for all the support and encouragement we have received from friends, family and our home church, and for the training and preparation that has been provided by the Reach Beyond UK team (wonderful people).
- Provision of a secure and comfortable house.
- A warm welcome and support from Chuck and Anita Howard, our in-country godparents who are helping us to find our feet.

Please ask for:

- A smooth visa application process. We have a limited amount of time to get a visa that will allow us to stay and work for 2 years. A stumbling block at the moment is that we need documents related to our university qualifications. In particular it is proving difficult for Heather to get the documents she needs from her Physiotherapy degree.
- That we would find a church in or around Tumbaco through which we can worship and serve our local community.
- Guidance as we explore roles and possible areas of service. Heather is keen to establish links between the hospital and the riding centre, but must do so with sensitivity to the staff currently working in the riding centre. Gavin will work alongside an existing team of IT engineers in the hospital, but will also be exploring the needs of other Reach Beyond ministries.



Departing Edinburgh



Spanish lessons at home in Tumbaco

Keep in Touch!

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