



October 2023
Newsletter: 12

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As months roll on, it can be hard to think of new things to write. If I were to give a summary of the past few months, it would be 'everything as usual.' In fact, in previous months, I was trying to choose which photos to include in the newsletter, this time, I was trying to find photos to include! Despite this, I have a full timetable, alongside trying to always develop discipleship and going deeper with Jesus, which is one of the long-term impacts I aim towards.

In the church plant in Ongota, there are now bi-weekly Sunday services. On Sundays, I am in Misahualli, but I continue to go to Ongota every Saturday. Around 6 months after we first started in Shiripuno (a short distance up the River Napo) we have around 15 children who come every week. It has taken a lot of persistence to get to this point, and we give thanks for this little group, and pray they continue to come and learn more about Jesus.



Sunset on the way home from Shiripuno



New t-shirts in Shiripuno

Kids' club in Ongota continues.



English classes have made me smile a lot recently – there are more classes, covering various levels and ages, even though numbers have been smaller, but everyone who is coming really wants to be there, and they are doing so well. The biggest surprise for me has been the 5–7-year-olds, as I am not used to teaching that age group, and often I think they don't have a clue what I'm teaching them, but then the following week, they just regurgitate everything from the previous week. One week, we did items in our pencil case, and the following week, I said 'everyone, get out a pencil' and when I turned around, everyone was holding a pencil. Result!

I also have a small group of adults coming along, who will be able to use what they are learning in their jobs, which are mostly in the various sectors of hospitality and tourism. One thing of note is the growing relationships in the communities, alongside these adult classes, I've been able to have lots of conversations with different people while going about my daily life. Sometimes, these can

feel like an interruption, when I really just want to do my grocery shopping, or wait for the bus, so pray for me to have patience and to always make the most of every conservation I am able to have.

Unfortunately, I was sick for the better part of 2 weeks in September. This was a strange and unfortunate start to the 'new' year, but with some work, we got things going again. One of these events was a 'parrillada', which is a South American barbecue, for the young people. We have a new season of meetings for them in November, so please be praying for that.

Serving the food to the young people



The church music group was invited to play in neighbouring church. In South America, it's common to have a 'dress code' for special events, such as everyone wears a white t-shirt, but on this occasion, it was (last minute) decided we would wear one of the traditional outfits of Ecuador.

Although it doesn't form part of my official work, I really enjoy playing in the group each week, and the challenge of traditional Andean and Latin American melodies and rhythms, which are very different to what I learned to play as a child.

Elections – after a lot of uncertainty in the past few months, Daniel Noboa was elected president without any fuss on 15th October. He takes up office in the next few weeks, as the youngest Ecuadorean president, aged 35.



Just chilling – it's good to be a monkey in Misahualli

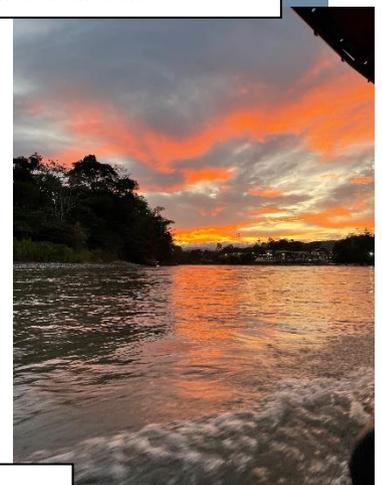
Prayer points

- *Everyone who attends English classes*
- *All ongoing activities – community lunch, Shiripuno, Ongota*
- *Growing relationships in the community*
- *The music group in church*
- *Personally, for good health, energy, ongoing wisdom and strength for all my work*
- *Upcoming Christmas season*
- *My parents' visit in January*

Wishing you God's richest blessing,

Melissa

Sunset from the river



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