

Lewis & Janice Beeler
Missionaries to Ecuador, SA

Ecuador Ministry Plan, 2022

PURPOSE:

In our ministry to the people of Ecuador, we purpose to win souls to Jesus Christ, disciple new believers in Christ, and gather believers into local, Biblical, Evangelical, Baptist churches in and around Cuenca, Ecuador. We will give careful attention to the training of national pastors in Ecuador.

Lewis and Janice have set the following ten year goal for ministry in Ecuador. To be completed by the end of 2032.

- Beginning in 2023, when we return to Cuenca, Ecuador:
 - Start our third Baptist church in Cuenca, if possible in an area that is without a Baptist church presence.
 - Increase our evangelism literature ministry to include a local printing and literature distribution center.
 - Continue our monthly evangelistic outdoor movie ministry.
 - Restart the Breath of Life (Aliento de Vida) pro-life counseling and women's resource center, originally started by Janice in 2016.
- Increase the size and scope of our Bible institute in Cuenca to include the training of college students from the United States for service as foreign missionaries.
- Open a Christian book store in Cuenca. The book store will be used as a resource for the Bible institute, an evangelistic tool, and a source of sound Christian literature for the churches in Cuenca, and surrounding areas.
- Start a rescue mission that includes a soup kitchen and short term housing for the purpose of ministering to the drug and alcohol addicts living on the streets of Cuenca.
- Start a Christian talk radio station that will broadcast Christian radio programming for the people of Cuenca in both Spanish and English.

MISSION SUMMARY:

Lewis, Sr. and Janice Beeler, along with their two sons, Lewis Beeler, Jr., and William have been actively involved in missionary work since 1999. In 2009 William married Nancy Bermeo of Ecuador, and she too joined the Beeler family's mission in Ecuador.

Lewis Sr. and Janice Beeler, both have Bible institute diplomas. Lewis Sr. graduated from the Bible Institute of Ohio in 1999, while Janice graduated from Moody Bible Institute in 2001. After selling their home, all of their possessions, and with no earthly goods but their luggage, the Beeler family traveled to Ecuador in January of 2002.

Within their first two weeks in the country they began their Spanish language training that

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continued for ten months, six hours a day, five days a week. Once finished with their formal language training the Beelers, together with another first term missionary family started Word of Life Baptist Church, in Cuenca, Ecuador.

Lewis Jr. and William returned to the United States in 2003. Lewis Jr. earned his Bachelor's degree in Biblical studies, from Cedarville University. He continued his education earning his PhD in Biblical languages from Piedmont International University in 2017. Lewis Jr. plans to oversee the Bible institute in Ecuador.

At the same time William Beeler completed a Biblical studies program while attending Cedarville University. He went on to earn a Graphic Design degree from the Art Institute. His wife Nancy has a BA in Education Psychology from Cuenca University in Ecuador. William and Nancy plan to raise their financial support and begin their church planting ministry in Ecuador in the near future.

The Beelers have committed their their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Ecuador.

MISSION AGENCY:

Central Missionary Clearinghouse
P. O. Box 219228
Houston, TX 77218-9228
Office: 281-599-7411

SENDING CHURCH:

Meadow Creek Baptist Church
2503 Bedford Rd
Bedford TX 76021
817-835-0027

GEOGRAPHY OF ECUADOR:

The Republic of the Ecuador is located on the west coast of South America. The word Ecuador is the Spanish word for equator. The equator runs through Ecuador 90 miles south of its northern border. Ecuador is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west, Colombia to the north, and Peru to the east and south. The chain of islands known as the



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Galapagos are part of Ecuador. The Galapagos are about 600 miles west of the mainland. Ecuador has an area of 106,000 square miles, slightly larger than the State of Colorado.

The highest point in Ecuador is Mount Chimborazo at 20,570 feet above sea level. Because the earth is not a perfect sphere and has an equatorial bulge, Mt. Chimborazo protrudes farther into outer space than any other point on earth, including Mount Everest in Tibet, which stands 29,029 feet above sea-level.

Mount Cotopaxi, located in Ecuador, is one of the most active volcanoes in the world and has an elevation of 19,347 feet above sea level. It last erupted in 2016, and is only about 30 miles south of Quito, the capital of Ecuador. In southern Ecuador, not far from the city of Loja, is the Puyango petrified forest, one of the largest petrified forests in the world.

PEOPLE OF ECUADOR:



The people of Ecuador are generally divided into four major groups, the largest group is the mixed (Mestizo) people. A mix of Indian and Hispanic. The Mestizos total around 70% of the population.

The indigenous (Indígenas) people are the next largest group and make up about 20% of the population. They are descendants of a dozen or more Indian tribes, first conquered by the Incas, and later by the Conquistadors from Spain.

The third largest group is made up of the Hispanic people. The Hispanics (Hispánicos) are of Spanish decent, and total about 7% of the population. There is also a subset of Hispanics of Lebanese descent.

African Blacks who are descendants of slaves brought to Ecuador by the Conquistadors in the 1600's make up about 3% of the population. The majority of the Blacks live in the northern Province of Esmeraldas.

It is not commonly known, but there is a Jewish population in Ecuador that may total as much as 1-2% of the population. The Jews in Ecuador are Sephardic Jews who were driven from Spain during the Roman Catholic Inquisition in the 1500's. Most of the Jewish population are ignorant of their Jewish descent and are counted as part of the Hispanic population.

The total population of Ecuador is estimated to be slightly more than 16 million. The median

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age in Ecuador is 27. The average life expectancy in Ecuador is 76, and over 94% of the population is literate. The national language in Ecuador is Spanish, specifically Castilian (Castellano) Spanish. There are several tribal languages in Ecuador. Most are a variant of the Quichua or Kichwa language, not to confused with the Quechua language of Peru.

Approximately 67% of the population of Ecuador is urban. The largest city in Ecuador is Guayaquil, on the coast of Ecuador. Guayaquil has a population of about 2.3 million in the city proper, with a provincial population of 3.6 million.

Quito is near the equator at almost 9,400 feet above sea level, and has a population of some 1.6 million, with a provincial population of 2.6 million.

Cuenca, at more than 8,300 feet above sea level, is the third largest city in the country with a population of 500,000 in the city proper, and a provincial population of 700,000.

MINISTRY LOCATION IN ECUADOR:

The Beelers chose to focus their ministry effort in the city of Cuenca, Ecuador. Cuenca is somewhat unique in Ecuador. Cuenca was a secondary home of the Inca king Huayna Capac. The people of Cuenca (Cuencanos) are very friendly, even though they are very traditional. Many of the buildings in the center of town are over 400 years old, and some women still wear traditional dresses that have not changed design in hundreds of years. Cuenca is also a popular tourist destination, and living in Cuenca are between 4,000 and 5,000 retired Americans. Some of the locals claim that Cuenca is the spiritual heart of Ecuador.

MINISTRY ANALYSIS:

Religious cults and Christian fringe groups have had more success in making converts in recent years than the Baptist Christians in Ecuador. In Cuenca there are hundreds of Mormons, and perhaps thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses. Three Mormon Wards (churches) are located in Cuenca, and in Guayaquil on the coast of Ecuador is a Mormon temple. There are more than 30 Jehovah's Witnesses meeting halls in Cuenca, and dozens of churches of a Pentecostal variant who teach good works rather than salvation by faith.

While there have been evangelical missionaries in Ecuador for almost two hundred years, most of the Christian missionary activity has been located in and around the capital city of Quito. Sadly only about 1-2% of the population of Ecuador are born again Christians. The Southern Baptists claim to have some 220 churches in Ecuador, yet there is only one in Cuenca. There was not a single Baptist church in Cuenca until the 1980's. Today there are seven Baptist churches in Cuenca with foreign pastors, and only two Baptist churches with national pastors. In addition to nine Baptist churches, there are perhaps thirty or forty evangelical churches of all other denominations in Cuenca. We estimate there are perhaps 4,000 to 6,000 born again Christians living in Cuenca. Needless to say in a city of 700,000

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people there is room for a massive amount of growth in the Christian community. We are excited at the opportunity we have before us in church planting in Cuenca, Ecuador.

It varies from State to State, but in the USA it is common for there to be one Baptist church for every 2,000 people. With a population of 700,000 in Cuenca, and using the United States as a guide, Cuenca should have 350 Baptist churches. As of 2022 there are 9 independent Baptist churches in Cuenca, with perhaps 800 members between them all.

COMPETITIVE MINISTRIES:

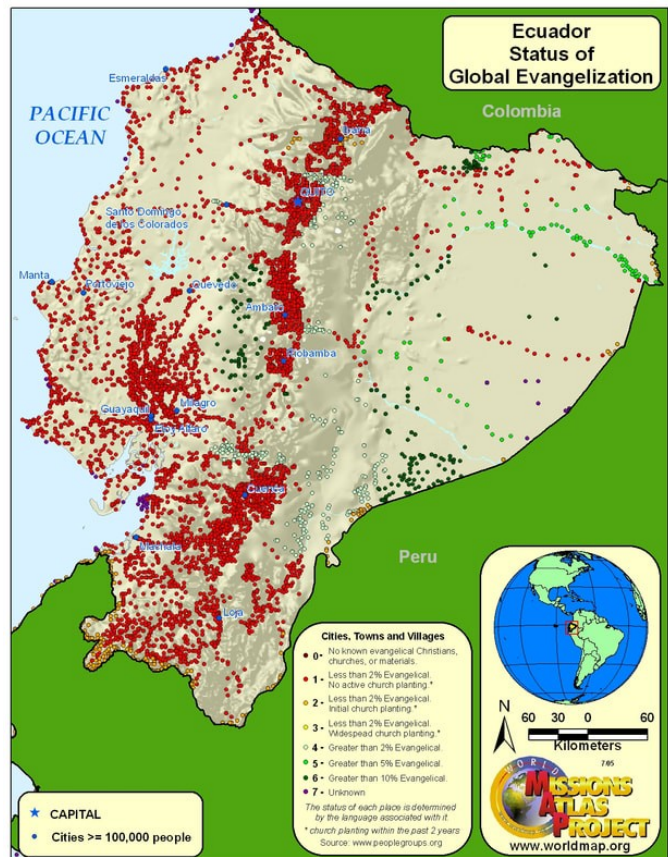
According to Christianity Today, there are more than 1,500 different Christian groups in North America. Many of these groups have followers throughout South America as well. Dozens of evangelical Christian groups have been identified in Ecuador, with about ten denominations being present in Cuenca. They are: Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Calvary Chapel, Assemblies of God, Church of God, Charismatics, and Baptists.

There might be 40 to 50 evangelical churches of all types operating in Cuenca today. Almost all of them have fewer than 100 members. There are two large evangelical churches in Cuenca. One has about 1,000 Sunday morning attenders, and the other with about 500. Unfortunately the two large churches contain only a handful of born again Christians. Their gospel message has been diluted by their false doctrine, and their cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church.

POPULATION SEGMENTS:

Although some evangelical groups claim there is a Christian population of 8% to 10% in Ecuador, we believe such claims are greatly exaggerated. According to the World Missions Atlas Project a more accurate projection is around 2% of the people of Ecuador are born again, with most born again Christians living in rural areas. The Christian population in the cities is much smaller, and runs about 1% or less.

Although the population segments in Ecuador are culturally distinct, to the casual observer they seem to be



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homogenized. Generally each group stands apart from the others, but because of their neighborly Latin culture, in which they are sociable with one another in public, they appear to be one culture.

The Hispanic (European) population is less than 10% of the total, yet they dominate the government, banking and business communities. The Mestizos, (mixed people) and the Indian population are the most prolific at almost 90% of the population, and they make up most of the working and poor classes.

TARGET POPULATION SEGMENT:

Rather than minister to individual people groups, our philosophy is to reach out across cultural barriers to those individuals who are essential to the operation of a church. We seek to reach out to Ecuadorian men, who will be foundational to planting churches in Ecuador. It is men who will become pastors, missionaries, and future leaders in local churches.

A second group of people we see as significant to our ministry of church planting are the neglected, and the poor. To this end Janice plans to restart the pro-life counseling ministry she originally began in 2016 when we return to Ecuador. The pro-life ministry reaches out to mostly poor young women and teens who are in danger of having an abortion.

Lewis is burdened for a rescue mission that will minister to the needs of street addicts. Drug addiction and drunkenness destroys thousands of lives in Ecuador every year. Addicts sleep on the sidewalks in most neighborhoods around Cuenca, and there is no church or person in all of Cuenca who reaches out to help these lost souls.

MINISTRY MIX STRATEGY:

The Beelers have a four part plan for planting new evangelical Baptist Churches in Cuenca, Ecuador:

1. Evangelize the mostly Roman Catholic population of Cuenca, and from a pool of new Christians train men whom God is calling into pastoral ministry.
2. Work with like minded Baptist churches in Cuenca, from other parts of Ecuador, and from around South America who already have men in their congregations whom God is calling into ministry.
3. Bring North American men of college age to Cuenca for theological and language training in the Bible institute. It is the Beeler's hope that God will call some of these young men to Cuenca as church planting missionaries. During their institute training they will assist with new church plants, gaining valuable ministry experience.

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4. Start new Christian ministries, such as an addiction rescue mission, a Christian book store, and a Christian radio station. These ministries will enhance the church planting ministry by giving ministry opportunities to Ecuadorian Christians.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Lewis Sr. and Janice have a personal monthly support requirement of \$3,200.00 per month, which includes \$1,000.00 per month in ministry support. They anticipate receiving 100% of their support by the time they return to Ecuador in 2023.

SUPPORT ALLOCATION:

In addition to monthly living expenses, donors may also designate funds to one of the Beeler's current mission projects:

Lewis & Janice Beeler, outfit and passage	-	\$ 30,000.00*
Bible Institute	-	\$ 10,000.00
Christian Radio Station	-	\$ 45,000.00
Christian Book Store fund (includes books for the institute)	-	\$ 30,000.00

Donations for any part of the Beeler's ministry can be sent to:

Central Missionary Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 219228
Houston, Texas 77218-9228
Office: 281-599-7411

*The outfit and passage fund is used to pay for travel to Ecuador, the purchase of a vehicle, and household goods.