



*Paz y
Esperanza*

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Shining a light in the darkness of Ecuador's coronavirus crisis

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. - John 14 v 27*

Last month we shared with you some of the challenges being faced by Latin American countries in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. This month we would like to ask you to pray specifically for Ecuador, one of the countries most affected. Some of you may have seen distressing images of the situation in Ecuador, particularly in the epicentre Guayaquil which is the country's largest city and where PyE Ecuador has its base. The health system is not able to cope and the morgues there have been overwhelmed by bodies. Many people in the country make their money from informal work so their income has been slashed during lockdown. As a

result, the already rampant poverty has increased, many people are going hungry and there has been social unrest.

The Paz y Esperanza team have been partnering with local churches and other agencies and doing what they can to help. The churches are a sign of light in the darkness. One of the most vulnerable communities in Ecuador at this time are the more than 500,000 Venezuelan refugees currently living there. PyE have been providing food, hygiene and medicine packages to many Venezuelan families that have settled in Guayaquil as well as other vulnerable people, including the elderly and disabled.



Jose Vinces, PyE Ecuador country director, has shared some prayer requests with us.

Please pray:

- For the families who have lost loved ones, for comfort, strength, resilience and the ability to process their grief during these exceptional circumstances.
- For the health system and the provision of enough PPE, respirators, medicine and staff.
- For the authorities to make decisions in the interests of the population and which tackle corruption.
- For the physical and mental health of the vulnerable, including the elderly, single parents, those with disabilities and migrants.
- For the PyE team and members of faith communities and humanitarian organisations who are trying to find opportunities to bring peace and hope, provide practical help and build communities.



The situation in Latin America is desperate. Graham Gordon, our UK Director, has recorded a short appeal to explain more:

<https://youtu.be/y0eixH9N-2M>

We would welcome your prayers and any financial contributions you are in a position to make towards our COVID-19 appeal for the work in Ecuador, Peru and Colombia. All of the money will go straight to PyE and provide more food parcels, hygiene equipment and pastoral support to the most vulnerable communities through mobilising the local church. To donate please go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pyecovid-19response>

[Find Out More](#)



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