

# Introduction Ecuador

The Wesleyan Church in Ecuador began in 2000 in the coastal city of Guayaquil with two pastors and their congregations who were already established there. From there the work spread to the mountain city of Cuenca, where another church has been planted. Missionaries George and Sheree Wuertz went to Ecuador in 2005. Ned and Marlene McGrady gave one year of service, and in 2009 Tom and Lydia Hines, who had been supervising the work, became resident missionaries. The Kansas District of the Wesleyan Church helped in the development of the work in Ecuador from the beginning, providing administrative and financial help, leadership training and special events such as Vacation Bible Schools and retreats for women and couples.

In 2010 the Wesleyans led the way in forming an interdenominational team to

minister in the women's prison. Ecuadorian Wesleyans are also receiving theological training at seminaries in Guayaquil and Cuenca.

Future plans include planting churches in another city, establishing a ministry center in Cuenca and launching a JESUS film team.

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Dollar replaced sucre as national money



# Ecuador



Old year puppet—burn this to symbolize end of the old year



Food  
Fanesca—fish stew eaten on Easter  
Encebollada—tomato soup with onions  
Guaguas de pan—bread babies eaten on all soul's day  
Fritada—pork with avocado and corn  
Llapingachos—potatoes stuffed with cheese  
Bizcochos—biscuit

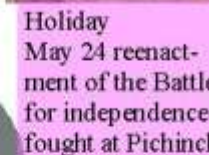


Quito—was the capitol of the northern part of the Inca empire  
Nickname—land of the eternal spring  
2nd highest capital in the world  
Church was built before the city  
Incas razed the original city before Spanish arrived  
Is 1 km from the equator



Key exports  
Balsa  
Panama Hats  
Bananas  
Bark that is the source of quinine

Holiday  
May 24 reenactment of the Battle for independence fought at Pichincha



Largest concentration of active volcanoes



Cotopaxi is the tallest active volcano 5900



Chimborazo—farthest point from center of earth 6268.2 meters

- Vampire Bat—all three species are found in Ecuador
- Blue Footed Booby
- Galapagos Giant Tortoise—lonely George is the last of this species
- Sea Lizard—only known lizard that swims in the sea
- Fur Sea Lion—smallest of the sea lions lives here

Unique foods  
Tuna  
Tree tomato  
Aji Salsa  
Pitahaya  
Ortoto-finger  
banana  
Guinea Pig  
Guanabana  
Chirimoya  
Granadilla  
Taxo



Galapagos Islands—Charles Darwin wrote the theory of evolution here



Ramichaca bridge is the only natural bridge connecting two countries



# Children's Story

## Mary of the Angels

During Vacation Bible School at the Wesleyan Church, María de los Ángeles asked Jesus to come into her heart. Her name means “Mary of the Angels.” Isn’t that a pretty name?

After Bible School, María’s mother and sister started going to the Sunday services, and it wasn’t long before her father and her brothers, and her grandmother began going, too. Since then, they have brought cousins, aunts and uncles with them.

María’s mother, Nube, became a Sunday School teacher. She loves the children and the children love her.

One Sunday the lesson was on the conversion of Saul and how Jesus changed him from a persecutor into a preacher and how his name was changed to Paul. The teachers had each child come to the front of the class and tell the story. By the time they had each told it and listened to all the others tell it, they knew the story very well.

Maria attends a good Catholic school. Nevertheless, since she is not Catholic, her mother requested that María not be required to attend catechism class. Her request was refused, so María was still attending catechism class when she learned the story of Paul’s conversion. The next week her catechism teacher said, “María, what exactly do you learn at the church you go to?”

María didn’t miss a beat. “Well,” she said, “last Sunday we learned about Paul’s conversion.” She proceeded to tell the story in detail. When she had finished, the teacher said, “Now wait a minute, María. First you said his name was Saul and then you said it was Paul. It can’t be both.” “Oh, yes, he was called Saul before he met Jesus and then they called him Paul after that,” explained María. The teacher admitted she had not known that and told Maria that she wanted to see her mother after school.

Maria was afraid she had done something wrong. When she told her mother that the teacher wanted to see her, Nube said, “Why? What’s wrong?” “I don’t know,” said Maria.

When Nube entered the classroom, the catechism teacher said, “Señora, I congratulate you. Your daughter knows more about the Bible than I do!” She then told her what had happened, and Nube said, “Well, at our church we teach the Bible. May I see the book you use in this class?” The teacher showed it to her, and Nube leafed through it. “This book was written by men,” said Nube. “It doesn’t even have the Bible references in it. You should be teaching the Bible!” The teacher did not argue with that, but replied, “I would like for Maria to stay in this class. She can help us learn about the Bible.”

And so, Maria is letting her light shine at school. Jesus and the angels must be very pleased with “Mary of the Angels”.

# Memory Activity

Acts 9:20-21

At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

## 2. Wheel of memory

Make a wheel with all of the letters of the memory verse on it. Then on a blackboard or sheet of paper make a space for each of the letters of the memory verse as shown below. Now make a list of questions regarding the Bible lesson, the story and the fact sheet. Have the person spin the wheel and then ask them a question. If they answer the question correctly then fill in all of the blanks for that letter. If the letter has already been used they can spin again. Students can be divided into two teams and the team that guesses the verse correctly wins. You could divide the verse up into phrases and have more than one round of the competition. (In this case you could make a wheel for each round with only the letters for that round.)

\_\_\_\_\_ (At once he began to preach)

\_\_\_\_\_ (in the synagogues)

\_\_\_\_\_ (that Jesus is the Son of God)

You will need to make three wheels. Each with a different set of letters, one for each of the phrases above. See resource page for sample wheel.

First— a e o b c n t h g p r

Second—l e a o u n g y t s h

Third—A e o t d h g j f s y

# Bible Lesson

Acts 9:1-31

When Saul was old enough, he went to a special school in Jerusalem. His teacher was Gamaliel. Gamaliel trained him in all of God's laws. As Saul grew, he was careful to obey God's commands and then became a Pharisee. The Pharisees were a group of people that were extremely obedient to God's commands and made sure other people obeyed God's laws, too.

Saul knew about God's promise to send a Messiah who would save people from their sins. He was looking forward to that day. Then, he began hearing news about a group of people saying that the Messiah had already come. These people were teaching that God had sent His Son Jesus to save the world from their sins. This news really bothered Saul because he didn't believe these stories.

One man who told these stories was named Stephen. He, especially angered Saul. Stephen talked about God and Jesus, and even accused the religious leaders of murdering Jesus! And so, when Stephen was stoned to death, Saul was very happy.

Saul believed that these followers of Jesus needed to be stopped. He went to the places where they gathered and arrested men and women and had them thrown in jail. But even though he was doing everything he could to destroy these people, their message was spreading – even beyond Jerusalem.

Saul got permission from the high priest to go to Damascus to arrest anyone who taught about Jesus. (Acts 9:1,2) But, as he was on his journey, a really bright light from heaven shone all around him. He fell to the ground and he heard a voice. It said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Saul was afraid. (Wouldn't you be afraid?) Saul said, "Who are you?" The voice replied, "I am Jesus of Nazareth. I am the One you are persecuting." Jesus told Saul to go into Damascus and he would receive instructions of what to do next. (Acts 9:3-6).

The bright light disappeared, leaving Saul alone with his men. As he got up from the ground, he could not see! The brightness of the light had blinded his eyes. Some men took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. (Acts 9:7-9).

Meanwhile in Damascus there was a believer named Ananias. God spoke to him. (Read Acts 9:10-12). If you were Ananias and God told you to go to visit Saul how would you feel? Let's see how Ananias felt. (Read Acts 9:13-16). Ananias was probably afraid that Saul might hurt him.

But, Ananias obeyed God. He went to Saul and placed his hands on him. Immediately, Saul could see again. He got up and was baptized. He ate and regained his strength. (Acts 9:17-19). Right away, Saul began to preach that Jesus is the Son of God. People wondered if this was the same man who had been putting believers in prison. (Read Acts 9:20-22). Saul's life was changed!

In the past Saul hated people who followed Jesus. Now he preached that Jesus is the Promised Savior. Many people were excited about this change in Saul, but some became angry and decided to kill him. His friends learned about this plan so one night they hid him in a basket and lowered him through an opening in the city wall so he could escape. (Acts 9:23-25)

Saul returned to Jerusalem and wanted to visit with the other believers living there but they were afraid. Hadn't Saul wanted to destroy the church by putting believers in jail? And now he wanted to join with them as a fellow-believer? They thought it was a trick and he was just pretending so that he could find others to arrest. But, Barnabas encouraged them that Saul was a true believer. They accepted Barnabas' words about Saul and were not afraid of him anymore. (Acts 9:26-30).

Later, in Acts 13:9, you will see that Saul no longer used the name of Saul, but Paul. Throughout the rest of the New Testament, that is the name he used.

## Review Questions:

Play a game of True or False. When an answer is false ask students for correct answer.

1. Saul was traveling to Damascus to attend a wedding. (False, to imprison Christians)
2. Jesus asked Saul why he was persecuting Him? (True)
3. Saul was blind for three days. (True)
4. God told Thomas to go to Damascus and restore Saul's sight. (False, Ananias)
5. Ananias was obedient and went to Saul and his sight was restored. (True)
6. Saul preached about Jesus and everyone loved him. (False, some wanted to kill him)
7. God can transform a person's life when they believe in Jesus. (True)
8. Saul changed his name to Isaiah. (False – Paul)

## Help

**Help Game** is a favorite South American game from the country of Peru.

**Aim:** To try avoid being caught by the chaser.

1. To play the game, the first thing to be done is to choose a chaser. One player holds his hand out with his palm facing up. The other players all place their index fingers in the palm. The player quickly closes his hand. As he closes his hand the others pull their finger out of his palm. The player whose finger is caught becomes the chaser for the game.
2. The chaser runs after all the players trying to catch them. If a player is in danger of being caught he shouts out 'Help!' If someone comes to his rescue by holding his hand, they are both safe from being caught. However, if no one comes to his rescue he can be caught and becomes the new chaser.
3. Players can only hold hands for three seconds before they must let go and run away. The catcher cannot get closer than two metres (six feet) to players who are holding hands.
4. The game continues until all the players decide to end the game.

Game Time

# Time for Prayer

1. Pray that God will call Ecuadorians into the ministry.
2. Pray for the new church plant in Guayaquil.
3. Pray for marriages to stay together and be healthy.
4. Pray for more Christian counselors in Ecuador.
5. Pray for the salvation of Ecuadorian children and youth.

# Activity

## Activity

### Story Telling Challenge

**Make a list of key details of the story of Paul's conversion.**

Then tell the children you will have a competition to see who can tell the story the best. Ask for at least three volunteers.

You will need two groups to judge how well they do. A leader or group of children who have the list of details and give the story teller a score from 1-10 on how well they did at including all of the details. The second group will be the others in the group of the children. When all of the story tellers are done then have them clap or shout their approval for each one. Rate their approval as 1, 2, 3 based on response of children. Total the two scores to determine the winner.

You could give the winner a small prize or even ask them to tell the story to the adults during church.



