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IMPACT!



Helping people transform cities by transforming lives



Fall 2013

A Life-Changing Conversation...at VBS!

By Nichole DeVries, CFCI Short-term Missionary to Peru

God's love is universal and the Gospel is for EVERYONE!

I learned that in a BIG way during my six-month CFCI mission adventure in Peru. I got to share that with a 10-year-old girl there.

I had the privilege of leading a VBS program for kids from the streets at Peniel Church in Peru entitled, "Who is Jesus?" One of the girls who came was obviously uncomfortable. She didn't make an effort to participate or show any enthusiasm for the lessons,

what we have been talking about this week? That Jesus is always with us in good times and bad? When you feel lonely, sad or afraid, Jesus is right there with you to comfort you. Whatever is going on in your life right now, Jesus will be with you to help you. It's His promise and He never breaks them."



Nichole DeVries



but she would watch me intently while we sang songs.

Her eyes would follow me and she would look around at the other kids doing the motions. I knew she was interested, but just didn't want to show it. Every day I made sure I talked with her, asking her how she was and how she liked VBS. She always just said, "Good."

On the final day she seemed particularly down. She didn't smile. She didn't want to tell me what was going on so I just asked, "Remember

Slowly a smile reached her mouth and then her eyes and she said, "Yeah, thank you." She and a friend started coming to Sunday school after that and they always stopped to talk with me. God touched that girl's heart that day.

She realized that Jesus didn't care that she wasn't comfortable. He loves her just as she is, and He is always faithful.

Want to be used by God to change a life like Nichole?

Visit www.cfc.org or contact us at 800.526.7551 to learn about the perfect mission experience for you!

A Gift from God...Bethany's Summer with CFCI

More than 75 people took an extended time from their "normal" lives to serve through CFCI across the globe this year. Amazing. These people are Gifts from God. They provide much-needed assistance and respite for our missionaries as well as opportunities to expand our ministries.

Bethany Alms spent her summer with CFCI in Costa Rica...in an impoverished neighborhood called La Carpio. Having just finished her junior year as an education major, she was invaluable as a teacher.

"We needed a full-time assistant in English, she was scheduled to help daily with the classes for children. Within a week, I was happy to shift her into the position of lead teacher," said Megan Crow, CFCI missionary and Bethany's supervisor on the field. "When Bethany was not leading programs, she was spending time with the children and youth in La Carpio, especially at ReNuevos."



Bethany's blog journaled her experience from beginning to end. In her last post from Costa Rica, Bethany remembers her nervous feelings about leaving the U.S. for a foreign culture. At the end of her trip, she was nervous to return to the U.S. after developing great friends and making the Latin culture her own.

"Goodbye. Someone once told me that the harder the goodbye the better your time was. The goodbyes that I am saying this week are incredibly hard, which makes me grateful for the beautiful, wonderful, amazing, crazy, and incredible times I have been blessed with here," Bethany wrote.

CFCI gives all the glory to God for our very special short-term missionaries. They renew our strength and encourage us to keep going. They also bring new witness to those we serve!

Please consider joining us on the field in 2014! Visit cfci.org or call us at 888.526.7551.



It's more than your hands... it's your **heart!**

By Alex Lute, CFCI Short-term Missionary to Costa Rica

In September of 2005, I got on a plane and left my family in Chicago to move to San Jose, Costa Rica for six months. I was just 19 years old. I was moving to a place where I didn't speak the language and where I didn't know anyone. I was scared.

God worked in my life those next six months. I grew in my relationship with Him, and I made many friends in La Carprio, the very poor community in which I worked. I got to work with kids at CFCI's New Horizons center leading activities and tutoring. I got to care for a lot of kids who didn't have someone to love them at home. After six months, it was hard to leave!

Over the last eight years, I've had the opportunity to visit La Carprio a few times. The joy and excitement of returning grew each time I got to visit. "My kids" were growing up into great young men and women. They were becoming leaders of the church. They were graduating from

high school and going to college. I was so proud of them! They worked hard and let God work through them to beat the odds stacked against them.

In July I brought 11 others from my church down to La Carprio to do a vacation Bible school. My heart was full. My team got to meet people who I consider to be my family. There were many times I sat back, smiled, and praised God because I saw Him giving my team the same heart for La Carprio that I had. We shared Christ with over 90 kids that week! What a huge blessing it was to have that many kids show up to hear God's word!

The physical things that happen on mission trips are important, but the greatest thing you can accomplish on a mission trip is building relationships with people. My church, The Church at Indian Lake, will see the La Carprio kids again in 2014 to keep building on those relationships!



Looks Like a Party...



but it's really HOPE!

For seven years, CFCI missionaries Mickey & Marielos McKinney have gone into the hills of Rio Azul, Costa Rica, with food for hungry children. On their first visit there, the Lord laid on their hearts the need to feed the many hungry children who followed them around that day.

Every Sunday since then, the children of Rio Azul can be found at the Faro de Esperanza (Lighthouse of Hope) Church enjoying food for their hungry stomachs...and souls.

On Saturday, September 21, Costa Rica celebrated Dia del Niño—Day of the Child. The children of Rio Azul anticipated this special day. They knew that a special party was planned for them at the church!

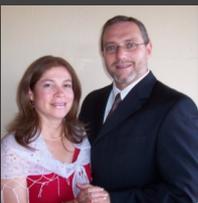
More than 100 children came out of the hills to celebrate at the church that day. They played and prayed together. A special treat was watching a movie (a rare activity in the hills) about a

small man who defeated a giant by trusting God. Three beautiful piñatas were broken open with candies and toys bursting forth. The children had hot dogs and cupcakes and everyone received a bag filled with chocolate, candy, and a gift.

Usually sad faces were filled with joy and hands were full of treasures! Each child took home a bag of clothes for his/her family. All with the message of HOPE in Christ.

It is through serving others that their hearts are open to the Gospel. Thank you for your prayers and gifts for Mickey and Marielos. It is only with your help that they are able to continue ministering in this very poor community.

Want to help Mickey & Marielos feed these children? Use the response card enclosed or visit www.cfc.org and click on DONATE, then select Mickey & Marielos McKinney.



McKinneys



Transforming Lives in Las Ve-

By Randy Fontaine, CFCI U.S. Base Planter

When you think of Las Vegas, what comes to mind?

Gambling, drinking, wild parties, CSI, gangsters, spectacular stage shows, half-dressed girls, etc. (They call it "SIN City" for a reason, you know!) One billboard in town read, "How much more Sin can we put in Sin City?"

On any given day, 350,000-500,000 visitors from over 100 countries visit Las Vegas. How much sin can they find? How wild can they be? It's safe there because "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas" - right? I mean, God will never find out, will He?

But there is another side of the city that you never see in a movie or crime show. It's where city hall is reaching out to the faith-community asking them to find ways to meet the human needs of the city. This collaborative effort has identified six areas of focus: homelessness, jobs, education, strengthening the family, addictions, and human trafficking. Over the last two years, the city has gathered together 120 churches, representing 70,000 parishioners, to work together to address these needs.

Christ For the City International has been asked by the city to help in this endeavor. We are providing leadership resources for the city along with new ministry partners who can help in one or more of these six specific areas. We plan to launch our Urban Plunge there next year along with starting a new city ministry base.

Help us redeem SIN City! I believe Satan has had it long enough. Now is the time for the Church of Jesus Christ to rise up and set this city free.

Get involved now! For information and/or to get involved, contact randy@cfc.org or 888.526.7551. Together, we can transform Las Vegas by transforming lives there!



The Faro Project

Saving the youth of El Salvador

In 2008, six churches in San Salvador came together with a vision to open youth centers in the most dangerous neighborhoods in their city as a way to prevent gang involvement, drug use, and violence. The centers would be places where young people could feel they were part of something different; where they feel accepted and loved for who they are, and where the values of the Kingdom of God are taught and encouraged.

The San Jacinto center opened in 2008 and recently the Cal Pipil center opened bringing HOPE to more than 130 young people. In addition, the centers provide places for vocational training and personal development where youth can learn computer skills, English, cooking, music, art, and much more.



CFCI supports The Faro Project with volunteers, missionaries, and financial support. The goal is to add four more youth centers in the near future. The neighborhoods have been identified and local churches have committed their support.

Give hope to these youth by joining us in building these four youth centers! Complete the enclosed response card or donate online at www.cfc.org (Click donate, then find The Faro Project under our “special projects.”)

Impact!

Newsletter for CFCI Friends,
Family, and Partners

Editor: Jill Adams

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www.cfc.org



Pictured on cover: In San Salvador, CFCI works through neighborhood youth centers to tell kids about Jesus. They take cooking classes, play music, act in plays, get tutoring, and evangelize their neighborhood!





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