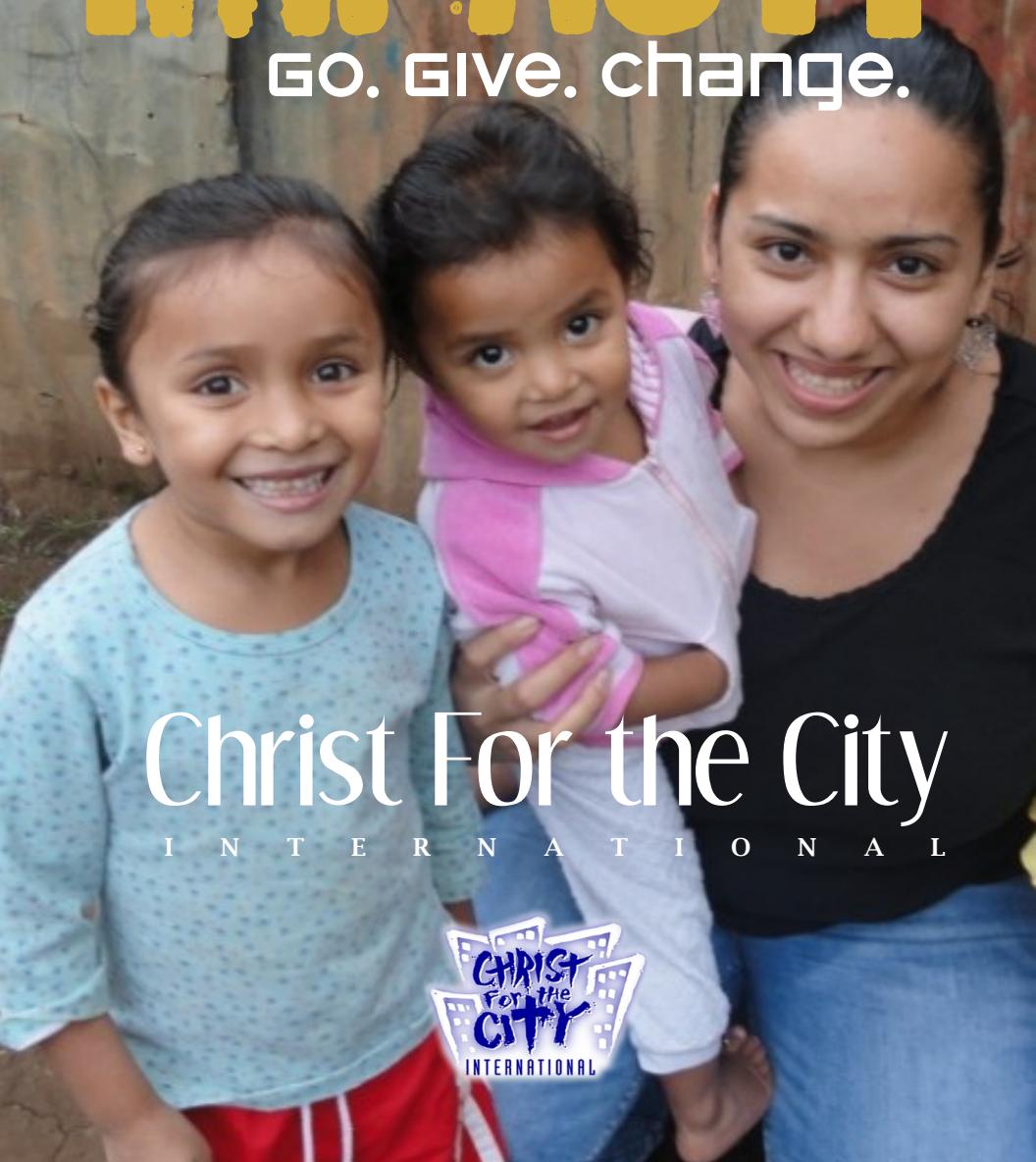


SPRING 2012

# IMPACT!

GO. GIVE. change.



Christ For the City

I N T E R N A T I O N A L



# Oh, the Blessings You'll Give...and Get!

By Cristina Almanza, Short-term Missionary

For many years I had the desire to be a missionary. One night while working I felt that it was time. I found Christ For the City International via the internet. I sent an email to request information and then I prayed that if it was God's will that He would open doors. He did! As I prepared for my trip, I saw God work wonders as He confirmed I was following His will.

**My experience in Costa Rica taught me that even if God took me out of my comfort zone, that He would never take me out of His hands. I learned to trust God like never before.**

As I walked through the slums of Guarari, I saw children without shoes and thought about how many times we buy shoes just to match an outfit. I also noticed a need in them for more than material things...a need for God. Maybe I couldn't supply all their needs, but I knew I could share with them LOVE and HOPE. I told them that with God anything is possible!

On my last day in Guarari I was filled with sadness. My new friends, Anjolie (14) and her brother Jesus (12) walked up to me so excited. Their faces lit up as they handed me a plastic bag and waited for me to open it. Inside the bag was a beautiful, small wooden ox cart. I remembered only five days ago when I had visited them. I drank out of a broken glass and sat on a worn out couch. Their shared bedroom only had one thin mattress in it. Yet they found it in their hearts to give me this special gift.

**Through this trip, God has taught me that all I need to make a difference in this world is a willing heart. He will handle the rest.**



Cristina with one of her new friends

**“If you feel the tug at your heart to serve, do it. And be ready to be blessed in a HUGE way...while you bless others.”**



Making Christmas cards in Pinilla

**Reach out to these children with the love of Christ!**  
**Please, donate online or use the enclosed response card.**

# WHERE SOCCER AND GOD UNITE!

Claudio Lazar, Short-term Missionary in El Salvador

At this point of my life, I'm insanely in love with God and soccer. Considering this, I prayed for a mission trip that would include God and soccer. God directed me to CFCI where I could be a part of an open short-term mission team going to El Salvador to serve through soccer.

The time I spent in El Salvador was the **most significant spiritual experience** I have lived. Giving hope and sharing love with the church members, playing soccer with kids from the soccer school, and taking part in daily devotions were just a few of the activities that revealed the majesty of our Creator.

Stepping out from my comfortable life in the U.S. and pursuing Christ with all that I am in El Salvador was only possible with prayer and the Holy Spirit. I enjoyed playing soccer and sharing the Word of God at half-time.

The most emotional moment of the trip was when our team played against a team of active gang members. To pray with these young men, to tell them about Jesus, and to encourage them to follow Christ, was **the greatest evangelizing experience of my life.**

As humble servants of our God, we can give hope and share love and faith with everyone around us. We can pray that God will change the people we encounter. I left El Salvador with a strong feeling of assurance that God will transform the hearts of the people in El Salvador.

**GO!**

Join us on an  
Open Team in  
2012! Visit  
[www.cfc.org](http://www.cfc.org)  
for more  
information!



Claudio (HOPE shirt) and team.

"Each  
of you  
should use  
whatever  
gift you  
Have  
Received  
to serve  
others,  
as faithful  
stewards  
of God's  
grace in  
its various  
forms."  
**1 Peter  
4:10**

# WANNA TRY A NEW KIND OF "BOARD" MEETING?

**Steve Edwards**  
**CFCI Missionary in San Jose, Costa Rica**

**STEVE "LA LO" EDWARDS**



Miguel was one of the first kids I met in La Carpio back in '04. He had a real servant's heart and a great smile. Unfortunately his life had taken a sad turn as he began to walk down the wrong road.

Stints in rehab and juvenile detention were part of the events leading up to the day in December of '09 when his life was cut short. Shot point blank three times, he only made it to 17. Miguel was part of a group of kids that prayed to receive Christ back in February of 2005.

The reality in La Carpio is that some of these kids will never make it to 18 years of age. This reality brings a sense of urgency. Every kid wants to fit in and sometimes they look in the wrong places to be part of something bigger than themselves. ►

Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm: 37:4

**BOARD MEETING**



**Beloved Miguel**  
**1992-2009**



Skaters are the same way, a lot of them just don't fit in with team sports or very structured activities. That's the great thing about our skate ministry at Christ For the City International's New Horizons program in La Carpio. There's a place for the skaters. The environment is loosely structured so they have the freedom to be who they are and express themselves creatively.

The skate ministry in La Carpio is at a very special moment in time. The vibe is a lot more creative than competitive.

Almost every session, a least a half dozen of the kids or more get better right before your eyes. Kids are helping and encouraging each other. In January, when we went to New Horizons camp for the first time, we had two cabins filled with skaters.

It was the perfect culmination of a year's worth of Saturday sessions that included Bible studies. The life-change and spiritual growth in these kids is something to see. Praise and glory to the Giver of all good things!



# FIELD REPORT:

## from the mountains of El Salvador

Don Cochrane, Mission Team Leader

Dec 2011 Mission Trip Report:

We are in the jungle, in the mountains at an abandoned Rebel base named Rattlesnake. Our team is spending five days in the mountains, helping with two retreats for inner-city kids and youth from a violent neighborhood near San Salvador. This is Center Lake Bible Camp's 5th trip to CFCI's base in El Salvador.

Our surroundings are rather "Epic"; we are camping in a mountain park near the town of Cinquera. During El Salvador's recent civil war (1980 -1992) this area saw much violence and fighting. After the war, the local people turned this area into a park. The area now is beautiful and peaceful.

### Our team activities include:

- hauling supplies, water and food up the mountain trail,
- facilitating camp fire games,
- helping with Bible devotionals,
- discovering huge spiders in the outhouse,
- swimming in a pool at the base of a waterfall,
- waking up in a hammock with birds calling, and
- leading a rock climbing activity.



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**Want to have an adventure in missions or support the El Salvadorian kids going to camp? Go to [www.cfc.org](http://www.cfc.org) or contact [shawn@cfc.org](mailto:shawn@cfc.org).**

# Got 2020 vision?

CFCI has doubled in size over the last seven years. **God has given us a vision to triple the number of cities we serve by 2020!**

This is a “together” venture. A partnership. With your help – financially, prayerfully, intellectually – CFCI can reach this goal. Will you join us in this vision? **Will you let God advance His Kingdom through you?**

CFCI is creating a special 2020 Vision Team. This group of visionaries will support the growth of new city bases to grow the Kingdom of God substantially by 2020. You will be the first to hear of growth opportunities and make decisions to act on them.

Here's how it works. Your investments will be placed in a special 2020 Investment Fund. The gifts in this fund will be set aside for growth opportunities in new cities. As a 2020 Vision Team member, you will receive special communication about ministry opportunities in new areas. You will decide where

you want to use your investment dollars. CFCI's 2020 Vision Team investors will also be invited to tour the new bases as they develop. We also want to hear your ideas! **You'll have many opportunities to be involved in building your base!**

To join the 2020 Vision Team, you will invest a minimum of \$1,000 in 2012. Interest made on your investment also will be used to support our bases! Your investment will keep giving!

**Will you please join us as we seek to share Christ with the world as the hands and feet of Jesus?** We want you and need you on our vision team!

Picture this...no place without a witness, no church without a vision and no person without hope! Together with God we can make this happen!

***Use the enclosed response card to make your investment and join CFCI's 2020 Vision Team!***

## IMPACT!

Newsletter for CFCI Friends, Family, and Partners  
Editor, Jill Adams  
[jill@cfci.org](mailto:jill@cfci.org) or 888.526.7551



On the cover: CFCI short-term missionary, Cristina Almanza, with children she met in the impoverished neighborhood of Guarani, Costa Rica.

Visit [www.cfci.org](http://www.cfci.org)...Central America... Costa Rica to learn how you can help bring HOPE to this community.

**Want to help us be better stewards?  
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to get this newsletter by email.**



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