



## Children's Ministries, Inc.

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June, 2011

### *Bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to Children of the World*

Queridos Amigos de Jesucristo (Dear Friends of Jesus Christ),

**GOD IS FAITHFUL!** That's the message we hope you'll hear from today's newsletter. *"He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."* (I Thessalonians 5:24) We always love to share our joy and excitement about the things God is doing in Ecuador. But in this newsletter, we first **need to share some of the challenges of 2010 and early 2011.**

The past six months have been filled with many difficult transitions and changes for Priscila and her staff and volunteers in Guayaquil. Difficult family situations, new governmental restriction and requirements, financial strain, interpersonal relationship challenges, and family moves to distant cities surprised us and rapidly took their toll on staff and volunteers. Within a handful of months, Priscila watched some of her key staff leave Children's Ministries, her family break apart and move away from Guayaquil, and many volunteers leave. Staff was reduced to 3 people and one volunteer.

Facing so many challenges without her usual support system proved to be the biggest challenge Priscila has ever faced since the inception of CMI in Ecuador. Feelings of failure, loneliness, and despair brought Priscila to her knees as she cried out to God. Without volunteers and staff to work with the children, the sidewalk Sunday schools screeched to a halt. Without a truck driver, the neighborhood programs were put on hold. Without her closest friends and family nearby, Priscila had no one to encourage her.

But, **GOD IS FAITHFUL.** Through "random" emails to and from a former staff member in April, we learned the extent of the challenges Priscila was facing. Jerry Fielstra (CMI director) and his daughter, Sally Dykhuis (yours truly), felt an urgent need to visit and lend some assistance and moral support to Priscila. After much prayer for guidance from God, they spent a week in Guayaquil in May, discussing various topics and sorting out the issues with Priscila and her remaining staff, providing biblical counseling in interpersonal relationships with multiple people, assisting with bookkeeping procedures, and offering creative solutions and ideas to restore life in the ministry and better organize the remaining staff to attain future goals. It was a busy, challenging week, to say the least, filled with intense prayers, tears, and hugs. But through it all, we saw God melt hearts and bring his joy back into lives.

From subsequent, recent emails from Priscila, we can already see that God is indeed working powerfully and restoring life into the ministry:

*"Today was a great day in the morning with the children. Even when we have a little rain, we danced and played with them. They were shining today! Oh, it was such a nice and beautiful moment with them."*



*"I also want to tell you how God is using the new teachers of the Sunday school, Kelly and Johanna. The 3 of us are in charge of the children and now we have 30 children on Sundays. We do painting and drawing with the memory verse and the children enjoy doing it. If we count the other children that came last week I think we are now close to 50. Before, we dropped dramatically with almost 10 children on Sunday, but now I see how God is moving His hand upon them and using us for his kingdom. Plus, now that the schools have started up again, once a week we go and share the gospel with them, too. We are ministering to around 1500 children a month at the schools. It is awesome what God can do when we decide to be used. Thanks for your prayers and love in everything you do for His kingdom."*

Please feel free to send mail or emails of encouragement to Priscila, Jacqueline and Carlos. It's always good to be reminded that people here care about them and the work they are doing. Here's how to contact them:

Send mail to:  
Centro Metro Ecuador  
Colinas de la Alborada  
Mz 741 Solar 19  
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Send emails to:  
Priscila Saltos: metro\_ecuador@ yahoo.com  
Jacqueline Cortez (pastor of church): mifielrefugio2011@hotmail.com  
Carlos Cortez (youth pastor): cj\_aviles\_y1988@hotmail.com

We hope your anticipation of a great year is overwhelming! God is faithful. **GOD IS FAITHFUL!** Through thick and thin, in good times and difficult, heartaches and failures, rejoicing and triumphs, we are constantly reminded that God is in control to do the work he has ordained. He will work out his plans for bringing the children and people of Ecuador into his Kingdom, so they may know the joy of serving him and witness his glory in their lives.

### *Snapshots of Ministry*

**Johana**, a woman who recently moved from Columbia to Ecuador, participates in the discipleship classes offered by Jacqueline and Priscila and is being trained in the sidewalk Sunday school program. About a year before moving to Ecuador, Johana became involved in a Satan worship group. After realizing she did not belong in this group, she contacted a Christian woman who helped her escape from the group. Although her



husband died a few years ago, Johana and her 9 year old daughter, Valentina, recently started coming to Centro Metro Church. Johana now comes to almost every meeting at the church to learn all she can about the Bible and to serve God. Although she will have a difficult time supporting herself and her daughter until she gets her green card, she is a beautician by trade and works out of her apartment. Her cheery disposition and enthusiasm is contagious to all those around her!



**Kenny:** In a previous newsletter, we told about a 10 year old boy named Kenny who attends one of the public schools where we offer our children's program. Kenny could not get enough Bible study! Jerry and Betty Fielstra met Kenny for the first time during their January trip when he had just turned 11. It's been exciting to learn that one of our first new Christians, Vilma, meets with Kenny a few times a week to study the Bible together. It just doesn't get any better than that! Kenny only had a small new testament for a Bible, so we bought him complete study Bible with concordance and references.





**Jacqueline and Carlos** offer a lively youth worship service on Saturday evenings. It's obvious that 22 year old Carlos is a gifted and charismatic evangelist who is loved by the young people he brings to this meeting. His genuine care and concern for each person is very evident, whether he's leading praise songs, preaching the Gospel, playing games, or just hanging out after the service. Carlos is majoring in business management at the local university and is taking over the day by day accounting for the ministry. We are very thankful for the income and expense statements that he sends each month. It's also helpful that Carlos speaks some English!

**Jacky:** Jacky (de la A), the gal who has been working with Priscila since CMI's inception in 2002, recently made the difficult decision to take a new job. Jacky moved back to her home town, about 2 hours west of Guayaquil, where she now works with her cousin who does Sunday School in a manner similar CMI. (This church was trained by our staff a few years ago and have continued using the program with great success! A new church building is currently under construction to hold their growing congregation.) Jacky has been a huge blessing to the ministry and we will miss her dearly. A big **THANK YOU, Jacky!** Jerry and Betty Fielstra met Jacky on their first trip to Ecuador while working at Prince of Peace Orphanage in 2001. They celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary while on that first trip to Ecuador and, the week before this trip, they celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Congratulations, Jerry and Betty!

The annual **Yogi Bear Vacation Bible School** was offered again this past January. This is an exciting week where children are taught about the Bible, play crazy games, and enjoy craft classes. The week's highlight is a huge farewell party on the final day!



### **“Thank you!” to CMI Treasurer Cheryl Kloosterman and “Welcome!” to Sheila Atwood!**

Cheryl Kloosterman has faithfully served as CMI's treasurer for many years, carefully recording and depositing your donations and mailing receipts. Cheryl has now transitioned these important duties to our new treasurer, Sheila Atwood, who has already picked up the baton and is running with it. We sincerely appreciate both of these generous women; they are gifted with extraordinary organization and financial management skills and freely offer their services to the glory of God. We are humbled to benefit from their servant attitude. *“But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”* Matthew 6:3-4

It is **impossible** to convey in this newsletter the dedication and Spirit-filled attitudes of the staff and volunteers through simple words and photos. If you would like to visit Children's Ministries in Guayaquil, please contact Jerry Fielstra at the number below. We also want to thank all who contributed to January's special request for funds! Because of your generous contributions we are current with all obligations and a cushion has been provided for the coming year. Hopefully staff will not have to wait for their government required bonuses in December this year.

| <b>Income &amp; Expense Summary - Ecuador</b> | <b>Year 2010</b> |
|---|------------------|
| Income from Children's Ministries - USA       | 34,650.00        |
| Direct Offerings from USA Churches & Donors   | 5,700.00         |
| Income from Offerings in Ecuador              | 4,684.95         |
| Child Sponsorship Donations                   | 70.00            |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                           | <b>45,104.95</b> |
| Salaries, Employee Training & Taxes           | 29,262.33        |
| Ministry Vehicle Maintenance & Fuel           | 2,172.87         |
| Educational Materials & Refreshments          | 5,270.73         |
| Donations to Families in Need                 | 773.48           |
| Utilities, Phone, Internet                    | 1,627.64         |
| Office Supplies and Equipment                 | 1,508.71         |
| Professional Services                         | 3,855.03         |
| Banking Services/Fees                         | 171.04           |
| Church Supplies                               | 870.51           |
| Other Taxes                                   | 69.14            |
| Transportation                                | 168.15           |
| Insurance                                     | 932.54           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>                          | <b>46,682.17</b> |

### *About Us*

Your prayers and support are vital to this ministry. Children's Ministries, Inc. is totally funded by private and organizational donations. The Board of Directors and USA volunteers pay all state-side expenses (postage, printing, travel expense, etc.). **100% of your donated money is used for direct ministry needs in Ecuador.** For more information about this ministry please check our Web site: [www.childrensministriesinc.com](http://www.childrensministriesinc.com).

Your tax-deductible gifts may be sent to: **Children's Ministries, Inc.**  
**(Please note new mailing address!)** **1614 W. Leonard Road**  
**Mancelona, MI 49659**

We would also like to encourage those who follow and support the ministry to send us their e-mail addresses and to pass along the same request to other people who might be interested in the ministry as well. A current e-mail address list will enable us to e-mail our supporters in a timely fashion with exciting news when it happens. You can notify us by sending an e-mail to Marilyn Oom at [miom@aol.com](mailto:miom@aol.com) or [childrens\\_min@sbcglobal.net](mailto:childrens_min@sbcglobal.net). Please put "Children's Ministries e-mails" in the subject line.

**For those who have given support, we would again like to say Thank You! Whether that support is in the form of prayer, time, gifts or money, it is all appreciated. It is only through the efforts of many people letting themselves be God's instruments that we have been able to accomplish so much. Thank You!**

Serving a gracious Lord,

#### **The Board of Children's Ministries, Inc.**

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