



Children's Ministries, Inc.

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Spring, 2019



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

Saludos, queridos amigos de Jesucristo! Greetings, dear friends of Jesus Christ!

We at CMI are celebrating the Lord's steadfast love, endless mercies, and great faithfulness! The Bible says in Lamentations 3:22-23: **The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.** Wow, that's **WORTH CELEBRATING!** We invite you to celebrate God's love, mercy and faithfulness so graciously bestowed on us these past few months as we have prayerfully followed his leading in many areas.

Vacation Bible School



Children's Ministries is again embarking on Vacation Bible School at the Ministry Center. The program is similar to those here in the USA in that the children come to the ministry center each day to participate in Bible lessons, singing, arts/crafts and games. The program has grown greatly over the years and is a highly anticipated event each year. The excitement and energy in the room is very alive with God's love.



New Sunday School Site Continues to Grow

About an hour's drive from the Ministry Center/Church in Guayaquil is a newest site for Saturday Sunday School – Sergio Toral. It is a very poor area with miles of squatter huts for homes. The only church presence is one Catholic and one Mormon church. The Saturday Sunday School meets in a rented storefront space and in a short time they have doubled their space to include the adjacent building! The wall between the two storefront buildings was removed so they now have one large open room.



The ministry staff is training young adults who are eager to assist in this endeavor. Along with the CMI leaders and several mothers from the area, they bring the life-changing message of God's love. The mission site continues to thrive and grow in numbers, enthusiasm, and spirit! They plan to start serving food to the children to meet another need. The children that are coming have been so faithful and eagerly ask when Saturday Sunday School is about to begin. They love to go early every week to play games and spend time with the team.

Thank You Marilyn Oom

Marilyn has faithfully served on the Children's Ministries Board from its inception and is now stepping down from this role. The Board and the entire CMI team want to give a **Huge Thank You** to Marilyn for the many hours of love and service she has most graciously donated. Not only has she served on the board and faithfully taken minutes at meetings, she has also been the keeper of our mailing list and mailer of newsletters. It takes hours to maintain address changes and prepare the actual mailings. Priscila has also spent many days and nights with Marilyn when she visits the United States, which always includes lots of shopping for family members and the children back in Ecuador.

THANK YOU, MARILYN! And an **Honorable Mention** goes to Marilyn's husband, Ron, for his faithful help through the years, too!



Priscila's Trip of Faith.

Below is a real-life story Priscila shared with us from several years ago. We hope you will be strengthened and encouraged by it, just as we were!

About a year before Gerald Fielstra met Priscila, Priscila made a trip to Harlingen, Texas to attend a Spanish Bible Camp for missionaries. Her Pastor in Ecuador tried to discourage her from going, but she was determined. So she applied for and received a scholarship, but it did not include money for transportation to Texas.

By faith Priscila gathered some of her friends and had a prayer meeting to raise funds for the trip. They raised some money, but nowhere near enough to fly to Harlingen, Texas. She went to a Christian travel agent she knew, to see what she could do as she only had half the money to buy her ticket to Miami, Florida. With only one week left before the training class would begin, she made the reservation and told the travel agent she would have the other half of the money the next day. That same evening she gathered another group of friends and raised the money for the other half of the ticket.



With no idea how she was going to get from Miami to Harlingen, Priscila asked a friend who made little Ecuadorian dolls if she could have ten of her dolls. In addition, there were some people in Ecuador who heard she was going to Miami and asked if she would take some documents to their relatives in Miami. This friend promised to help arrange her travel to Harlingen. Sure enough, her relatives picked Priscila up at the Miami airport. Priscila shared that she had no money, but she had ten Ecuadorian dolls and asked for their help to sell them. They gave her ten dollars each, and took her to the bus station. The bus ticket to Harlingen was almost one hundred dollars, so she knew she could get there. At each step God was there, providing for her immediate need.

Priscila began her long bus ride from Florida to Texas. After several hours of travel, the bus stopped at a restaurant. But when others got off the bus, Priscila remained seated as she had no money for food. The lady sitting next to Priscila asked her why she was not getting off for some food and Priscila told her she had no money. The stranger asked her to come and eat with her since she did not like to eat alone. This happened a few more times until the lady got off the bus in Louisiana. Of course, Priscila had no idea it was a three-day trip from Miami to Harlingen!

In Louisiana, Priscila moved to sit behind the bus driver who happened to be a Christian. They were talking and sharing Bible verses. Again, Priscila stayed in her seat when they stopped for food, but this time, the bus driver asked if she was going to eat. When Priscila told the driver she had no money, he asked her to join him. This Christian bus driver bought her meals until the end of his run and gave her fifteen dollars for food for the remainder of her trip to Harlingen!

Priscila attended the Training Camp for about six weeks; all meals and lodging was furnished along with a great training program. Since she had only purchased a one-way bus ticket from Miami to Harlingen, she again needed to put her faith in God, that he would again provide a means to return to Miami for her flight back to Ecuador. Since she is a foreigner, she could not work to earn any money. On the last evening, there was a graduation ceremony where she noticed each student received their diploma and also a small envelope. When she returned to her seat and opened the envelope, much to her amazement was one hundred dollars. "WOW!" she thought to herself. "I can go without food for three days, but at least I can now get back to Miami."

We here in the States trust in our credit cards and the money in our pocket. Priscila had total trust in God for her trip. **AND GOD FAITHFULLY PROVIDED!**

Would you like to visit Priscila and the wonderful staff of Children's Ministries in Guayaquil, Ecuador?

They absolutely love to host guests from the U.S., sharing their enthusiasm for bringing God's love to children and adults! Jerry Fielstra, founder of CMI, is bringing a couple people to experience the mission in action during August. He would love to add a few more people to the group, so **YOU'RE INVITED!** Please contact Jerry at 231-633-0692 to discuss the possibilities.

CMI Technology

Having younger members joining the CMI board is bringing fresh, new ideas, especially in relationship to communication and the use of technology. One of these ideas is to bring Children's Ministries onto FaceBook. We would like to encourage you to search for the address "Children's Ministries Inc" to Like and Follow us on Facebook. It's in its infancy, but Brooke Lemoi and Kurt Dufendach have volunteered to assist in getting it up and running and then to monitor and post items on the page. We encourage you to **Like** our Facebook page, **Follow** us, plus **Share** it with your friends! We hope it becomes a means to bring more real-time information and happenings in Ecuador to you sooner.

Van Capital Campaign

It is hard to believe, but the ministry van is 10 years old. It has seen many hard miles of use and is beginning to require costly repairs. Priscila made the decision to sell the van and is currently using public transportation for her ministry team. This is proving to be very unproductive in the use of their time.

The picture shown here is of the van Priscila has found in Ecuador which would be her first choice for new transportation. As you can see, the cost is over \$42,000 which is higher than in the USA. The money that was received for the sale of the old van has been set aside to go towards the purchase of a new van, but we have a ways to go.

With this newsletter we are requesting that anyone who is willing to donate additional monies toward a vehicle please send money to Children's Ministries and notate on the check how much you would be willing to give towards its purchase. We do not plan to make the purchase until all the funds have been raised since interest rates are very high in Ecuador and we want to be good stewards of the money God blesses us with.

Your tax-deductible gifts may be sent to:

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FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS

We rejoice that **funding from native Ecuadorian donors has grown to 13.4% of Centro Metro Ecuador's budget in 2018!** More Ecuadorians become involved in the ministry each year through their volunteer work and financial involvement. The remaining 87.6% of their budget comes from you, our faithful and generous USA donors. We sincerely thank you for your generous support through the years!

GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS!

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