



## Children's Ministries, Inc.

938 Carver St.

Traverse City, MI 49686

(231) 633-0692

Website: [www.ChildrensMinistriesInc.com](http://www.ChildrensMinistriesInc.com)

Facebook: Children's Ministries Inc.

Fall, 2019



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

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

It is with much joy that we can again report on the work being done in Ecuador to bring the love of Jesus to children and families! We celebrate the accomplishments that we have witnessed because of the generosity of God's people. We feel privileged to partner with Priscila and the wonderful staff at Children's Ministries whom God has called to be a light in this corner of the world, and we continue to ask for your prayers for needs that are brought to our attention. We are seeing many lives transformed by the power of the gospel!

#### **Trip Reports**

In August, Beth Kushman and Terry Jolink joined Jerry Fielstra in visiting Children's Ministries in Guayaquil, Ecuador. They shared some of their highlights and impressions with us.

**Beth Kushman** from Faith Reformed Church in Traverse City, Michigan:

*I had the opportunity to go with Jerry Fielstra to Guayaquil Ecuador to visit the Children's Ministry Center. It was an experience that I will never forget. The people there are wonderful. They were so gracious and hospitable to us. I was so inspired by the dedication of the young people, to each other, and to the church. Some were there almost every day. The Ministry Center was a very active place all week long. The importance of asking for God's guidance and in making decisions was very evident.*



*We visited a public grade school and also a high school along with the team of young people from the Ministry Center to present the Gospel message to the students. I was amazed by the interest shown by the students. They were all very attentive.*

*A team of young people also do a Vacation Bible School type of program every Sidewalk afternoon for children in a very poor area of town. Those children lacked many things, but there was no shortage of smiles.*

*Again, I was reminded how many ways we are so blessed. I would love to go back to see my new friends. But until then, I will be working on improving my Spanish.*

**Terry Jolink** from First Church in Grandville, Michigan:

*After going to Ecuador, the last couple of years you may think there would be nothing new. Yet, every year I come away with what God is doing with the mission.*

*This year the main thing that impressed me the most was the night we went to the public high school where the team presented through skits and presentations that fit into their age group. The first skit pertained to dating and what could happen when you go with the wrong person. There was also a Rap music style skit. Carlos and Jaqueline gave a gospel presentation. (See summary below.) Afterwards some of the students came forward with concerns and prayer requests. The following day some of those in attendance came to the Ministry Center for further information and help.*

*God is truly alive and working in the lives of the people in Ecuador thru the CMI team.*



### **Sergio Toral - New Church Start!**

In our last newsletter we reported on a new site for Sidewalk Sunday school at Sergio Toral which is located on the outskirts of Guayaquil. It is a very poor area with miles of squatter huts for homes with the only church presence being one Catholic and one Mormon Church. We are thrilled to share that Sergio Toral will soon become the site for a new Children's Ministries church start!



CMI has three staff members who are in seminary and feeling God's calling to use their gifts to share the gospel in new ways. One of these people, Carlos, will be the lead pastor for the new church!

You may recognize Carlos since he has been very involved with CMI for several years along with his mother, Jaqueline. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, Carlos has a new wife, Katty, and she is eager to work and share the love of Jesus alongside him. Katty loves children and has a beautiful singing voice that she eagerly shares. She is not new to church or Christian ministry because she grew up in the church her father pastored in southern Guayaquil. Everyone feels Carlos and Katty will make a great team in this big endeavor.

Home visitation is a vital part of this new ministry. In the days between Sidewalk Sunday School, a team of volunteers in the Sergio Toral area make home visits to children who attended previous sessions. They hand out invitations to the children for the next Sidewalk Sunday School and encourage them to invite their friends to join them. While doing visitation, the team is also able to identify needs of the families and search out ways to assist them. It might be by bringing a grocery bag of food if they are hungry or shoes for bare feet. As needs are identified, the team works to assist the families. They are true living examples of being God's hands and feet by doing what he asks of us in the Bible. **Please PRAY** for God's guidance and blessing on this outreach ministry!

### **Grade School Program**

At 8:00 a.m. on August 15, 2019, Sunday school was held in a local public grade school. The USA team members continue to be amazed that sharing about Jesus Christ is allowed in the Guayaquil public schools. It is similar to the Sidewalk Sunday School programs with skits, stories, games, prayer and memorizing of Bible verses. The students are very receptive; teachers and school administration are able to visibly see changes in their behavior. While this is happening, there are frequently several adults in the room hearing the same

message. We continue to pray for the children in our USA public schools to have a similar opportunity to hear the message of God's love for them.

### **High School Gospel Presentation**

At 9:00 p.m. on the same day, Carlos, along with other CMI team members, met with about 85 high school students and several adults who are working to complete their education. He shared several Bible scriptures and the message of salvation. Some of the excerpts are as follows:

Jeremiah 1:5 *"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born, I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."*

God created us to honor and glorify Him. He formed us to be a champion for Him from the time we were formed in our mothers' wombs. We all have a purpose.



However, many things happen in life that can divert or damage our original Godly design. These may be rejections by parents, verbal or physical abuse, drugs, alcohol or any of several other earthly things. Yet, even though we all have sinned, we can have the hope of salvation in Christ. It is a gift from God that we only need to confess our sins and ask for His saving forgiveness.

Isaiah 53:4 says *"Yet it is our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins. But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's path to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on Him (Jesus) the sins of us all."*



Interspersed within Carlos' message, various CMI team members shared skits, songs, and dance. At various times students were so moved that they were holding hands with each other, especially during the closing prayer.

The team has already had further contact and opportunities to share the gospel with the people in attendance. The very next day, some women came to a prayer group and Bible study at the Ministry Center.

We ask for



your continued prayers for this vital, life changing ministry.

### **Heidi**

Heidi (pictured is now a volunteers Ministry picture she is the high

here) has been coming to Sidewalk Sunday School since age 6 and beautiful teenager with a big heart for her Lord and Savior. She with Sidewalk Sunday School and spends many hours at the Center doing various tasks to keep things moving smoothly. In this sharing one of her many talents by performing a liturgical dance at school mentioned above.

## CMI Technology

Children's Ministry Inc. now has a presence on Facebook! We would like to encourage all of you to search it out and "Like" it on Facebook. It is still in its infancy, but will grow with the goal to increase and improve communication between Ecuador and our USA supporters.

We would like to encourage you to search for the **Facebook page "Children's Ministries Inc"** and add it as a favorite to share with your friends. We have no plans to overload your notifications with junk, but view it as a means to bring more real-time information and happenings in Ecuador to you sooner.

## Transportation Van Capital Campaign

In our last newsletter we reported that the CMI team has been getting around using public transportation and we made a request for additional donations towards a new van.

Praise the Lord and a big thank you to our supporters for providing funds. Priscilla has purchased a new 12 passenger van using money from selling the old van and the additional funds you provided.

A van for about half the price of the original quoted for a Mitsubishi van was found. This van is made in China but still has a good Mitsubishi engine in it. We are all thankful for this new option and for all the additional gifts given to be able to purchase it. The goal was to not purchase the van until the funds were available and this has now happened!! Praise God!



## Thanks for supporting CMI!

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.**

Your tax-deductible gifts may be sent to:

**Children's Ministries, Inc.  
938 Carver St.  
Traverse City, MI 49686**

We sincerely thank you for your past and present support of this ministry to the children and people of Ecuador! We couldn't do this without **YOU!**

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

|                  |                |                                |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Jerry Fielstra   | (231) 633-0692 | fielstrag@gmail.com            |
| Steve Watson     | (616) 538-1112 | steve.watson@kentcountymy.gov  |
| Sheila Atwood    | (231) 631-0716 | randsatwood@gmail.com          |
| Tom Dame         | (231) 264-8870 | thedames@charter.net           |
| Don VanWingerden | (703) 791-2778 | Don@AtlanticBuildingSupply.com |
| Joshua Lemoi     | (724) 900-8382 | josh.lemoi@gmail.com           |
| Kurt Dufendach   | (616)-893-6471 | kdufendach@gaps-seed.com       |

### Director of CMI in Ecuador:

**Priscila Saltos  
Colinas de la Alborada  
Mz 741 Solar 19  
Guayaquil, Ecuador  
Office phone: 011-593-4-218-6156  
email: metro\_ecuador@yahoo.com**