

Christian Seeking Identity

APRIL 2014

God wants to bring his people home was the message the CBC team from Atlanta, Georgia recently brought to San Jose and Limon Costa Rica.

God created us in his image. He designed us to walk with him as his sons and daughters. We are family! God shares everything he has with us and has called us his sons and daughters and thus his heirs. He said we are one with him just as Jesus was one with him. He wants us to be at home with him where he can provide us with a loving safe environment:

On the first day the team ministered in a Christian school in an underprivileged neighborhood. The mission of the school was to reverse the future of those children through education and spiritual training.



Bring Them Home!

The CBC students presented dramas based on the stories of the lost sheep and the prodigal son. The emphasis was on the fact that we ourselves often find ourselves in vulnerable environments and positions because we have either wandered away from the security that our home with God provides or because we have never found that position with God. God's desire is not to punish us, but to seek us out so that he can set us free from the destructive things that are affecting our lives. God wants to save us and bring us home.

One of the high school students asked a profound question! What if I am ashamed of where I live? That really provided an opening for the CBC students to get to the heart of the message: The kingdom is within us. Home is within us and it transcends the things of the physical. Home is living with an inner sense of peace, hope and security that only comes from understanding the true heart of our savior. God is at home in us and he is not ashamed of his house. He

loves where he lives. We are at home with Him and He goes everywhere we go.

How do we bring those that have lost their way home? Both the students and Mickey and I were about to find out. Street evangelism was the next thing on the agenda. Normally this includes asking people if they know Jesus and if they don't, you lead them to him by getting them to repeat the sinner's prayer. You give them a tract and you invite them to church. I have never been a fan of this and I do it just when I have to. It makes me feel uncomfortable, and I think the ones I minister to in this fashion feel just as uncomfortable as I do.

**My Heart =
Christ's Home**

Douglas Rossman was our Costa Rican coordinator. He was more than just the coordinator. He was a mentor! He sat the team down and said, Christians have a bad reputation. They have long faces. They don't really love people. They just want to get people to go to their church and it makes people want to run. They can see right through their hidden agenda. We need to learn to love people! Jesus loved people. He had compassion on people. He ministered to their needs and set them free. We are going to evangelize to the people by loving them! We are going to take the church to them!

He presented the students with signs that said, "**Abrazos Gratis**", which in English means Free Hugs. We are going to go to the parks and streets and embrace people!

The most amazing thing happened. Those hugs tore down the protective walls that people have built around themselves. The embraces brought smiles and tears! The door leading to ministry was open wide. Is there something in your life that you need help with, can we pray with you? God loves you and wants to help you. You are not alone. He understands. The people responded to the love that they

felt and they poured out their hearts with things such as: I hate my mother, pray for me. I was a prostitute and now I have aids. My son is in prison. I am from Nicaragua and had to come to Costa Rica to find work and I have not seen my family in 2 years. My mother is dying of cancer. I can't remember the last time I had a hug. The list went on and on and on! We all began to love loving people and the people loved being loved!

The students ministered in churches, in prisons, in crusades and on TV, but the most memorable part of the trip was the time that they spent every day loving people, leading them home by allowing God's love to flow through them.

We want you to see for yourself what just loving people will do. Here is the link for the you-tube video that we filmed:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6U0EXydMe4>

Thank you Pastor Douglas, Ilianna, Carla, Daniel and Loretta for all of your hard work, planning and **FREE HUGS!** We will never be the same!

We are ready to duplicate this experience where ever we go.



Costa Rican Team - (Left to Right)
Carla, Loretta, Daniel, Suzan, Mickey, Iliana and Douglas.

The neighborhood in which the high school boy at the christian school asked "What if you are ashamed of where you live?"



Students from Atlanta, Georgia holding the signs "**Abrazos Gratis**" (Free Hugs) as they evangelize on the streets - loving people!



**ALPHA & OMEGA
INTERNATIONAL
MINISTRIES**

Mickey and Suzan Cartagena
620 Carraway Drive
Graham, North Carolina 27253

Alpha & Omega International Ministries is a 501 c (3) non-profit corporation. When you donate to this ministry your love offering or donation is tax deductible.
Email: aoministries@hotmail.com