

# Radical LifeLines

News from Radical Life Ministries

## Missions, Ministries & Motivations

**W**hat makes you more determined to achieve your goals? A lot of people are motivated by the possibility of being popular and having more friends.

Some people are motivated by a desire for an easier and more comfortable life. Others are driven to press harder in life to have more time to do the things they enjoy and have the latest and greatest toys and gadgets.

Before I continue, I want you to know the things listed above are not necessarily bad motivations. I will be the first to tell you that I like to have lots of friends. I love to be comfortable! Laying down in a hammock stretched out between two palm trees on a beautiful Caribbean beach sipping a cold glass of lemonade is a wonderful thing! In fact, I highly recommend it! And for me there is nothing like a brand new surfboard or fishing rod. Love it!

However, as great as these things may be, they are not what motivated Jesus. I don't think in the gospels we read where Jesus was against these things; it's just that He had other priorities. I believe the scriptures are clear that He was motivated by His love for the Father and fulfilling His Father's will. I also don't think Jesus did only "sacred" or "religious" things. It's more like everything He did became sacred and holy because He did them. When Jesus went fishing with the disciples or attended a wedding, it was sacred. When Jesus taught the multitudes or healed the sick, it was sacred. In all

things He obeyed the Father.

There was nothing mundane or unimportant. When we live to fulfill the Father's will every part of life becomes significant. God is in every detail of life—the good times and



With the Doctor in Jacksonville

seemingly "bad times." For example, I believe God loves to go with you on a fishing trip and when you attend a Bible conference. Personally, I believe

**"God whispers to us in the good times and screams at us in painful times."**

God has spoken to my heart at both of these places. Of course, God mostly speaks to us through His word, but He can speak to us at anytime and anywhere, *especially when we are listening*. God is in the joyful moments in life and in the painful moments.

Recently, I've been through a time of great physical pain. August 1st of

2014 I herniated a disc in my lower back while jogging in the mountains near Jaco. It has been a painful year. C.S. Lewis once said "God whispers to us in the good times and screams at us in painful times." Isn't that true? It's funny how spiritual we can become when we're experiencing pain. On these occasions, it's also interesting how we can wrestle with God in prayer. I've asked God "why?" so many times during this past year. His only response was, "I'm answering your prayers through this situation and remember...I am good."

Most people think that pastors and missionaries only watch movies like *VeggieTales* and read books like *Your Best Life Now: Seven Steps to Living at Your Full Potential*, or something like that. Now, I don't have anything against *VeggieTales*. I have most of their songs memorized. Also I have dozens of self-development books about positive thinking, and I enjoy them. It's just that my experience following Christ has not been like the old hymn that talks about "a walk in the garden with Jesus." It's been more like a marathon run on a battlefield thoroughly planted with land mines. I love the old hymns but I resonate most with "Onward Christian Soldiers."

This year, because of my injury, I've had a lot a time laying flat on my back. I've read many books; most of them about warfare and books on

*continued on page two*

## Missions, Ministries & Motivations continued from page one

the great military battles throughout history. I've spent some time studying the life of Joshua and David from the Old Testament. I've even watched a few of my favorite movies like *Red Dawn* (the old one) and *Black Hawk Down*. I can more easily relate my spiritual journey with Christ to these than many of the contemporary Christian books and movies. That may sound strange, but that's just where I'm at right now.

I've learned a lot through the challenges of my back injury. I've learned that one of the main things that motivates me is being a part of a team fighting a great battle with all of the odds stacked against us and watching God do something awesome to win the victory. Another thing that motivates me is when Satan launches attacks. In June, I attended a memorial service of a young man—only twenty-three-years old—who was attending our church. He died from a heroin overdose.

That motivates me to preach the gospel more. Last week, Pamela and I were awoken in bed by gun shots. *Another young man gunned down and killed in our neighborhood.* That motivates me to develop relationships with people who don't know Christ. For the past year, I've been in pain and I've had to spend a lot of time lying down. That motivates me to train and equip more leaders.

Many people have prayed for me, and I did all kinds of treatments in Costa Rica (except go to a witch doctor!) to avoid surgery, but nothing gave me relief. Thankfully, I had surgery on my back in July at Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. We were in Florida for a couple of weeks for me to recuperate, but as soon as the doctor gave me the permission to travel, we returned to Costa Rica. The recovery is very slow. There is a 50/50 chance that the surgery will be successful. If it is *not* successful, then I'll need another major surgery like a vertebrae fusion or a total disc replacement. At the moment, I feel much better but still have nerve pain in my legs.

I want to thank everyone who has prayed for me and given me words of encouragement. God has done some amazing things through this time in my life, and I thank Him for it. I wish I could tell you all of them. Please pray that this surgery will be successful and that God would heal me. If God decides not to heal me in the way I expect, I'm sure He will find a way to *motivate* me and *teach* me more about Him through this; but I'm very motivated right now and I've learned a lot :) I'm continuing to pray that He will heal me and get me back out on *the battlefield* with even more intensity and determination, functioning at 110%. *Lord willing :)*



### Welcome Andrew Family!

This month, we welcome **Rodney and Laura Andrew** from Atlanta, Georgia to the *Radical Life* ministry team. The Andrews have three children—two little girls and a baby boy who was born in Costa Rica. They first came to serve with *Radical Life* on a short-term mission team with their church four years ago. They have come several times to Jaco since then and felt God call them to full time service here. Laura was raised speaking Spanish (her father is from Guatemala), and Rodney has just completed seven months of language study in San Jose. Before leaving the States, Rodney studied theology and missions. We are very thankful for their commitment and much needed help. They plan to minister to the youth in the *Esperanza Radical (Radical Hope)* program. This is wonderful, because Jaco is full of youth who need to know Jesus!

## Youth Group Ministers to Indigenous Group

**T**he youth group of *Iglesia Radical* took their first missions trip! The youth pastor, Fernando, in partnership with a contact from the seminary where he studied, planned a missions trip to an indigenous group in Costa Rica.

The youth traveled nine hours from Jaco to the Caribbean coast near the border with Panama. They spent a week serving the Bibri tribe through organizing a youth retreat. This was so special, because it is part of the vision God has shown us: *Young people from Jaco being raised up to bring the gospel to other people groups! Wow!*

At the end of the retreat, the pastor from the seminary gave Fernando

a big hug and cried and said, "I just can't believe these kids are from Jaco. They did such a good job." Jaco is seen as Nazareth in the bible, "*What good could come from there?*" God loves to shine in dark places and bring life from ashes. We are so excited about this trip and thankful

for Fernando's faith to take the youth group that far away to minister to these special people.

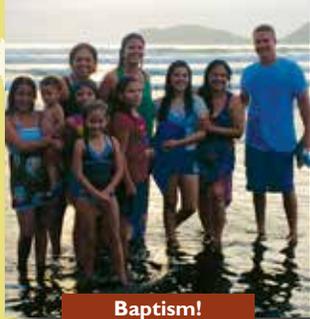


## Iglesia Radical: Moving Forward

### "And the Lord added to their number daily..."

**P**raise God, it has been one year since we have moved into the new facilities! During this year, the church has doubled in membership!

Many people are understanding the gospel and receiving Christ as their Savior and being baptized. Our main focus this year has been equipping, training and building the lead team to be able to consolidate new believers into the church. I firmly believe this is just the beginning of the growth we are going to see in the future.



Baptism!

According to one biblical model, the ability to grow in a healthy way depends on the ability to grow leaders. In June, we took the lead team of *Iglesia Radical* and their families on a team building trip to the Arenal volcano, four hours from Jaco. We spent three days praying for one another, learning more about servant leadership, working on team building activities, resting and enjoying great fellowship. The work of the ministry in Jaco is very fast-paced and intense. We all very much needed this



The Arenal Building Team

time of refreshing. As a ministry team, this was the first overnight trip we have taken. Everyone had a wonderful time together and returned to Jaco with renewed strength and direction. We are so thankful for the opportunity to spend this valuable time together. I heard two of the team members saying to one another that they had the best three days of their lives. We praise God and thank those who made this trip possible.

We also praise God because He is answering our prayers by sending more workers into the fields. More growth means more administration is necessary. Recently, we hired an additional administrative assistant to help keep things in order as we grow. Cindy Diaz was raised in Jaco and comes from one of the pioneering families that established the town. The main road through Jaco is named after her great-grandfather who came from Panama by boat and settled Jaco before there were any roads or access to the capital city. Cindy came to know Christ at *Iglesia Radical* several years ago and was baptized this year. In addition to her work at church, she is a professional bodyboarder and represents Costa Rica in international competitions.



Cindy Diaz

In May, we had a night of worship led by Seth Condrey. Before



The Knapps & the Condreys

moving to Costa Rica, Seth directed worship at North Point Community Church, Atlanta, one of the largest churches in the United States. Seth, his wife Jessica, and their children currently live in San Jose, where they are part of a church planting team focused on the upper socioeconomic class. Seth has recorded five worship CDs: three in Spanish and two in English. In 2008 his CD entitled "De Corazon A Corazon" won the Dove Award for the best Spanish album of the year.

This September 18th, *Iglesia Radical* in partnership with the *Christian Surfers*, will host another night of worship featuring the Christian reggae roots band, "Christafari." They have toured around the world and performed with Toby Mac and DC Talk. Their album entitled "Valley of Decision" was at the top 10 Billboard list of songs for 15 weeks in the reggae category. The founder of the band is a graduate of Biola University and an ordained minister of the gospel. They have produced 14 albums since 1993. I encourage you to "YouTube" both Seth Condrey and "Christafari." I think you would enjoy their worship styles and lyrics.



CHRISTAFARI  
REACHING THE WORLD THROUGH WORLD MUSIC

## Short Term Missions, Long Term Goals

**W**e are very thankful for the short term teams that have come to help us reach our long term goals for growing God's kingdom in the Jaco area. Since February we have hosted four mission teams:

- 1) **Palm Beach Atlantic College, FL** began the first phase of building a pedestrian bridge for a community in Herradura. The bridge provides a much safer and faster way for the people in the community to walk to school and work.
- 2) **The Church of Eleven22, Jacksonville Beach FL** sent an *all-women's* team to complete the second and final phase of the bridge. They also helped provide a

women's retreat for the women's ministry at *Iglesia Radical*.

- 3) **The Church of Eleven22** also sent an *all-men's* team to do construction work at a church member's house, to work on the municipality's lifeguard towers and to hold a special service for the men's ministry at church.
- 4) **Northland Church, Orlando** came to complete the work on the lifeguard

towers and to do much needed construction work at another church member's house.

We praise God for these teams, as they help the *Iglesia Radical* fulfill our mission in this area!



The Northland Church Team

# Prayer Requests & Answered Prayers

## Answered Prayers

- 1) Our son, Josué had tubes surgically put in his ears to prevent further infections over a year ago and they have finally been removed! This means he can swim again!
- 2) Our other son, Josiah broke his arm skateboarding and is now healed; thankfully it did not need surgery like the doctor suggested.
- 3) Thank God I was able to have surgery on my back in July. God gave us a new next door neighbor in Costa Rica. "Just so happens" she is a retired nurse for a world class neurosurgeon at Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville, Fl. She was able to get me an appointment with the surgeon with just two weeks notice (it usually takes up to eight months to get an appointment

with this surgeon). Amazing! Thank God for His miraculous provision!

- 3) We praise God for sending Rodney and Laura and their children. They are truly an answer to prayer for labours to help with the Harvest in Jaco.
- 4) We thank God for a great team-building trip for the lead team of the church. Thank you for praying for the development of our leaders.

## Prayer Requests

- 1) For extra love, wisdom, creativity, encouragement, joy and perseverance to lead our family and the ministry.
- 2) That the new believers will be consolidated into the church as active members.

- 3) That our lead team can develop leaders in the different ministries they lead in the church.
- 4) For many salvations during the next worship event featuring Christian reggae band "Christafari," September 18, 2015.
- 5) For continued financial support towards the advancement of the gospel through *Radical Life*.



Thank you so much for your heart for what God is doing around the world. May God richly bless you!

Pastor David Knapp and family:)

*The Knapp Family*

The Knapps serving in Playa Jaco, Costa Rica

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