

Radical LifeLines

News from Radical Life Ministries

Update Letter

Christmas Greetings from Costa Rica!

We pray you are well and enjoying this special time of the year when we celebrate the birth of Christ the Savior. I pray you will be encouraged as you read how God is answering your prayers and support for the advancement of the Gospel in Jaco!

As many of you know, I had surgery on my back in August. My life has changed in many ways. God is helping me see some good in all of this pain. One of the good things is I have been able to spend more time studying His Word. I have been looking more closely about how God grows the church in challenging times.

In the New Testament we read that the most common method God used to plant churches was through sending out small groups of apostles who traveled together to different towns preaching the Gospel and training leaders. In some cases these small groups of apostles would partner with existing local believers in the towns to reach even more people. Normally, local people would be more familiar with the local culture, languages and customs. One example is found in the book of Acts in

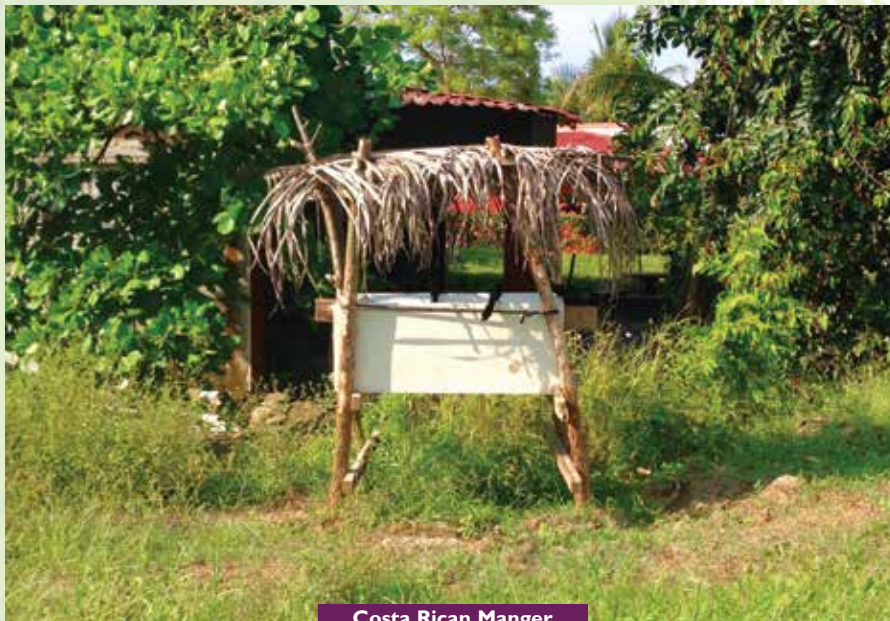
chapters 12 and 13. Believers from Cyrene (modern day Libya) traveled to the island of Cyprus (located in the western Mediterranean Sea, about

cultural team, they traveled together back to Cyprus to reach people there with the Gospel. That is a lot of traveling and partnering, but it is one of the New Testament models God uses to reach people and plant churches.

During my extra time assigned to me by God to study His Word, I began to think about these Scriptures and the growing presence of Christianity

in this part of Costa Rica over the past ten years. We have a long way to go but, thankfully, a lot has changed for the good. It is a real battle, but God is moving here, and it seems as though He is setting up an infrastructure for His future plans. One word God continued to bring to the fore-

front of my memory this year has been "order." In times of war or attacks, the enemy takes advantage of disorder. Surprise attacks are the most devastating, because typical-



Costa Rican Manger

**"This will be a sign to you:
You will find a baby wrapped in
cloths and lying in a manger."**

—Luke 2:12

20 miles off the coast of Turkey) and then traveled to Antioch (modern day Turkey), where they teamed up with a group of believers. Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, and made up of an even more diverse and multi-

ly, in the chaos, no one can communicate or come up with a plan, because it's too late. For this reason, we are told so many times in Scripture to be alert. Be prepared. Plan for attacks and expect them, because they will come.

Spotlight on Missions

Central-Pacific Assembly Brings Ministries Together

This year God placed on my heart the idea of gathering all of the national and international Christian ministries and healthy churches working in the Central-Pacific zone of Costa Rica in one place.

This zone covers about 80 miles of coast (from Puntarenas to Quepos). The purpose of this gathering—or “assembly” as we called it—was for each of the ministries to get to know what the other ministries are doing, so that the different ministries could part-

- 2) Church leadership training
- 3) Children’s ministries.

If we discover a case of human trafficking, we need to have a local contact that deals with that issue. We do not need to become experts in that area, but we do need to have a contact that is an expert in that area. Some of the different ministries were becoming bogged down in finding out how to do something new to them, while there are other ministries that specialize in that very same area.

This was the first assembly of this type in the history of the Central-Pacific zone. There were five churches that attended and thirteen different ministries. Each were able to share the mission and vision of their church or ministry. A directory of local



churches and ministries was designed and distributed to everyone. Everyone enjoyed a meal and time of fellowship. Since this historic meeting, several partnerships have been formed, and we have seen a much more organized effort among the different parts of the body of Christ as we work to advance the cause of the Gospel throughout the Central-Pacific zone of Costa Rica. This event was provided by your prayers for wisdom for the leadership of *Radical Life* and your giving.

Instead of becoming bogged down with too many issues, we can contact a like-minded mission who specializes in that particular area or issue.

ner with other like-minded ministries without forsaking their own ministry’s distinctives and unique mission.

For example, *Radical Life Ministries* is dedicated to three areas:

- 1) Church planting

Strategic Partnerships

The Surf and Skate Connection

We are excited about two new strategic partnerships. We are partnering with the *Christian Surfers* who have restructured their leadership and need a healthy church for their leaders to attend and to connect new believers in a place where they will be welcomed with open arms.

The leaders of the *Christian Surfers* in Jaco are Costa Rican. Believe it or not, there are “churches” that do not allow people with tattoos or those that

wear shorts and flip flops to attend. Crazy! Legalism! *We will gladly be the church that welcomes them!*

In September, we also began a part-



nership with the *Christian Skaters*. Together with Fernando, our youth pastor, they provide a skate clinic every Wed. from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm that includes: skate ramps, lessons, a devotional time and refreshments. The goal is to create a place to develop relationships with kids who skateboard, share Christ with them and welcome them into the church. The leaders of *Christian Skaters* are **Aaron** and **Bonnie Wells** from Virginia, serving with **Global Outreach Missions**.



From California to Colombia

On the Road With Gustavo

Recently, God has given our scholarship recipient **Gustavo Corrales** some very unique ministry opportunities.

He was chosen to travel to California as a surf coach and travel companion of competitor **Ismael Araya** to represent Costa Rica in the “ISA World Championships of Adaptive Surfing.” They finished 19th of the 37 countries that participated. During this trip, Gustavo had a week of opportunities helping Ismael grow in the faith and sharing Christ with many in the surfing community.

Gustavo also traveled to a remote village on the Pacific coast of Colombia called, Nuquí. This village is only accessible by a small airplane from Bogota then a 45-minute boat ride along the coast towards Ecuador. He went to speak to the elders of this community of around 200 people about developing their village as a surf destination. He was sent by the ISA (International Surfing

Association) as a community development project. Gustavo was able to share about what God has done in his life and the hope that is in Christ. Although

they have great waves for surfing, no church exists in or near this village. They have no electricity. They eat the fish they catch and what they can grow. They also trade with the indigenous people from the surrounding jungles for a variety of other meats.

Through his travels, he is learning about the great need to plant

churches along the coastlines of many nations.

Gustavo will graduate in June with a bachelor’s degree in pastoral studies. Thanks to your giving towards scholarships to equip students like Gustavo—by God’s grace—one day there will be churches in these areas.



Gustavo and Ismael

Outreach to People Affected by Flooding

October is the month in which we receive the most rainfall. This year during October, a riverbed near the church became blocked by a fallen tree, and it caused the river to spill out of its banks and flow directly into the community across the street from the church. Fourteen homes were flooded within minutes. Most people escaped with only what they could grab as they waded through the muddy swift-moving water in the

dark. Several people lost everything, but amazingly, no one was killed. In some houses the waterline reached six feet inside the homes.

We praise God that we could use the church’s new facilities to minister to these people. A relief team from the church was quickly organized and we were able to provide encouragement, food, clothes, toiletries and other help. Several of these people have been visiting the church as a result.



Christafari!



In September, in partnership with the local chapter of *Christian Surfers*, we had the opportunity to host the most famous Christian reggae music band in the world, “**Christafari!**”

Over 640 people attended the concert! The lead singer gave a powerful invitation to receive Christ and a strong challenge to stay sexually pure until marriage. Forty people prayed to receive Christ and 17 of these completed the six-week discipleship course, “**Raices**” as part of our follow-up plan, and they have been welcomed into the church. It was a dream come true to host *Christafari*.

They helped us further reach the people we are purposefully pursuing with the gospel. They also filmed a music video during their time in Jaco. To see the video, just go to *YouTube* and look for *Christafari*—“10,000 Reasons” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHhE8FxpPbM>). This video has been viewed more than 20,000 times in less than a month! Just think, every time someone views it, praises are being proclaimed over Jaco! I believe the filming of this video adds to the evidence that God is doing something great in this crazy town of Jaco!

Prayer Requests & Answered Prayers

Answered Prayers

- 1) Many prayed to receive Christ during the Christafari concert!
- 2) 17 New believers completed the "Raices" (Roots) discipleship class.
- 3) God's provision for this ministry through supporters like you.

Prayer Requests

- 1) Wisdom for leading our family, the church and Radical Life.
- 2) That God will call and people would respond to serve in the ministries of the church.
- 3) Many more salvations in Jaco and that 2016 will be a tremendous year of church growth!

- 4) Rest and recharging after Christmas.
- 5) 100% healing for David's back.
- 6) God's continual provision for our family and Radical Life.

Thank you so much for caring about God's work in this part of the world. May God continue to bless you... And one more reason to be encouraged, Paul wrote: "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the Grace of our Lord Jesus be with you" (Rom.16:20).ca.

Thank you and God bless you.

The Knapp Family

The Knapps serving in Playa Jaco, Costa Rica



Support Address: **RADICAL LIFE MINISTRIES** | P.O. Box 1248 | Keystone Heights, FL 32656 | *All gifts are tax deductible

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