



**Dear Friends,**

Our apologies for not writing since January. We were blessed to have Adam's parents Jeff and Jean visiting in January and February, and later Adam went to Oregon and Idaho in February. Needless to say, the last few months have been filled with travel. Thank you for your patience!

We also would first like to ask for prayer for our extended family, as the last month has seen some very difficult illness and loss. God provides peace in these difficult times and has brought us close together as a family. For us here 3,000 miles away from the U.S., we feel the distance more acutely in moments of grief.

There are some exciting new movements right now in terms of ministry and we would like to share with you the highlights:

### **Follow-Up Program**

#### **Hope Project – Camp Roblealto**

As you know, for the last two years we have successfully run the Hope Project initiative at Camp Roblealto, working with children living in high-risk social situations and poverty in Costa Rica. In December of this year, Andrea and I began discussing ideas for providing follow-up to the kids and organizations that participate in the Hope Project camps. From those conversations together as a couple (In fact some during our anniversary celebration), we created a new program called "Vinculos" (Links), which focuses on helping kids cope with the return to "real-life" that comes after an experience at camp. We will go to the kids, working with their sponsor organization, and teach them about healthy living based on three links in their lives: Their Link to God, link to their family, and link to their community. Please pray for this new initiative, as we move forward and do our first session in the next few months.



## **CCI Latin America**

### **Digital Resource Center**

#### **Phase #2**

As I mentioned in previous updates, we have been in a long process of editing and digitizing the long history of resources that we have with CCI Latin America. This includes years of Camp Training publications, workshops and much more. As our region is so large, we have needed a way to offer access to training and education materials to our leaders from Mexico to South America. With the assistance of the Northwest Section of Christian Camps, we have been able to achieve that dream! On July 1 we will have an entire library of resources available for download. Three years later, we are finishing this dream.

#### **February – Christian Camping Super-Sectional**

##### **Coeur D'Alene Idaho**

This year was the first time we participated in the Northwest Section of Christian Camps conference under the auspice of Gracia Missions. It is an annual event that Adam has attended each year for the last five years, at the invitation of the Northwest Section of Christian Camps. This year was a Super – Sectional that happens every three years, and includes camps from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. There has been a partnership for five years now, between CCI Latin America and the Northwest Section of Christian Camps. Donations have been given towards completing the Resource Library and also Hope Project at Camp Roblealto. It was exciting this year to share with the group what we are doing in Christian Camping in Latin America, and demonstrate how their generous offering has been and is being used.

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Overall, we are excited for the one-year anniversary of Gracia Missions' formation and what the future is holds for us. We have been so grateful for the support, counsel and passion shown by our Board of Director's this first year. Below we would like to celebrate them and let you know a bit more about whom they are:

##### **Mike Dreiske – Chicago, Illinois**

Mike has been involved in Christian Camping for more than 15 years, most recently as Executive Director of Beartooth Mountain Christian Ministries, a camp and Bible School in Fishtail, Montana. Adam and Mike were formed a partnership between Camp Roblealto and Beartooth Mountain, which has involved formation of an International Bible School Program, Hope Project sponsorship and development and collaboration.

##### **Isaac Mora – Heredia, Costa Rica**

Isaac has been involved in Christian Camping for his entire life, either as a camper, counselor and most recently as Program Director at Camp Roblealto in Costa Rica. His passion is camp and he has seen many lives changed through the ministry in Costa Rica. He is now Director of English Education at a private school in Costa Rica, and continues regular training and collaboration with Camp Roblealto.

##### **Kathy Hale – Puyallup, Washington**

Kathy has been one of the longest and most faithful supporters of Adam and Christian Camping in Latin America, since the first move to Latin America in 2008. She has a passion for the ministry of Christian Camping and its effectiveness in communicating the gospel and changing lives. For many years, Kathy was the director of finance for the Graham Fire Department in Washington, and recently retired from full-time work. She continues busy with Gracia Missions and consulting on the side.

**Mark Piscitelli – Portland, Oregon**

Mark is a dynamic character, who spent many summer working at the Cannon Beach Conference Center and in Young Life camps. He has a passion for Christian Camping and had his own life change through his experiences at the Cannon Beach Conference Center. Mark is currently working in Commercial Real-Estate in Portland, Oregon. He has much experience serving on community development and private boards, in the role of president and vice-president.

Thank you for your ongoing support, love and belief in the ministry that God has called us to. This year we are looking forward to many exciting and challenging projects, as we use the ministry of Christian Camping to change lives in the U.S., Canada and Latin America.

Much love,

**Adam & Andrea Carlsen**

