



LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

Juan and his family had to leave their home country for safety reasons. They went to a neighboring country, but they could not settle there and made the difficult decision to travel north. They prayed daily to God about what their next steps should be. As they passed through wild, dangerous jungles and were confronted by people with evil intentions, they continued to try to find a better life for their children.

Juan is a musician and played his trumpet in city parks along the way to earn money. Although his trumpet was battered from the journey, he could still get a beautiful sound out of it. In one park along his way, Juan met Mario, a fellow countryman who was resettling his own family in that city. They enjoyed the bond of shared culture and experiences, treating each other as “neighbors” even though they had never met before.. When Mario told his wife about the family earning a living through playing the trumpet, she

gave them a trumpet that had been recently donated to her.

The pilgrimage of a migrant can be one of the most dangerous, uncertain and complex situations to face. God intervened and made connections happen at just the right time. Both families—the one that had emigrated a few years ago and the other in process—exemplify fidelity and complete trust in God in times of total uncertainty. As the world is on the move, God is drawing us to love one another. Love might be as simple as offering someone a “trumpet” or listening to a story. How is God drawing you with his love into the global story of migration? Can you share a story where God connected you with an immigrant through love in the midst of uncertainty? Please write to one of us if you would like to be more involved in our community as together we discover what God might be doing in all of this movement of people.

FAITHWALKING: CREATING AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

Spiritual transformation encompasses multiple dimensions of life, manifesting itself in relationship with God, self, others, and the world around us. It is crucial to cultivate communities of disciples who experience individual and collective transformation, aligning their lives and relationships with the model of Jesus. These transformed communities mobilize other believers in genuinely sharing their lives and working to restore God's original design in their everyday environments. They are the embodiment of God's unconditional love for all of His creation, welcoming and embracing all with grace, vulnerability and mercy. Our partners in Central America are on a journey of transformation through Faithwalking, a program that invites them to a life of radical obedience, reflection and communal authenticity. Pray for them in this spiritual process.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Thanksgiving for the fruit that we see from Resonate's work throughout Central America and other places.
- Praise for the continued commitment and growth of Faithwalking participants.
- Pray for several big events that we are planning in our region: a vision trip with Cohort Detroit and Cohort Central America alumni; sending a large delegation to the Stott-Bediako forum hosted by our partner INFEMIT in Medellín, Colombia; and offering Module 4 of Faithwalking in person in Nicaragua.
- Pray for our team members who are traveling a lot in the next few months.
- Pray for vulnerable people who are migrating and need protection and help.



Some of our Central American partners in Honduras for an in-person Faithwalking module.



Casa Esperanza in Los Chiles, Costa Rica

MIGRATION MOVEMENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Migration through and from Central America has become a focus point for our team. Many of us know people personally who are migrating or wish to migrate, often for distressing reasons. Not only are people migrating north from Central America, but many people from other places in the world try to reach the United States through the corridor from the Andes through Central America to Mexico. Here are a few statistics to give some perspective:

- Guatemala reports about 22,000 people moving through in February 2024. Costa Rica reports about 35,000 people moving through in March.
- Venezuelans make up one of the largest demographics of people on the move in Latin America, with Colombians and Haitians following.

- The biggest needs identified for migrants are shelter, food, water, income, and legal assistance.
- The majority of people list economic or political reasons for their travels, and many believe it is unsafe for them to return to their homes.
- Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, Nicaragua, and El Salvador have been found to be among the most vulnerable to climate shock, giving people more reasons to leave.
- Foreign remittances make up large shares of the GDP in Honduras (27%), El Salvador (24%), Nicaragua (20.5%) and Guatemala (19%).

If you're interested in learning more, go to www.dtm.iom.int and select a region or country of interest to find the latest information about migration. Even while seeing these numbers, we remember that each person is an image-bearer of God and He knows their stories. Please pray for our brothers and sisters on the move.

MEET OUR PARTNER: CASA ESPERANZA

We have introduced our partner Casa Adobe in Costa Rica before. Now they are partnering with a new venture called Casa Esperanza [Hope House] in Los Chiles, Costa Rica. Casa Esperanza is more than a food pantry or wayside stop for migrants. It is a new place in which, together with local and migrating sisters and brothers, they do what we call "the theology of the table." This is partly to alleviate the vital need for food, but above all to share the sacred encounter that active listening around a table can offer, where we eat together, look each other in the eye, and feel that we are welcomed and invited to share more than a plate of food. It is being willing to be present, even if only to accompany without words, to communicate that the other person is important and worthy of hospitality. We remember that in others, Jesus is present and reveals Himself in each face and life which we encounter.

Engaging People. Embracing Christ.

UNITED STATES

1700 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407

P (616) 726-1144
P 877-272-6205

CANADA

3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070, STN LCD 1
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8

P (905) 336-2920
P 800-730-3490

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STEVE HOLTROP: sholtrop@crcna.org

RACHEL BEVERIDGE: rbeveridge@crcna.org

RAÚL & ADRIANNA HERRERA: aherrera@crcna.org

JAMES PADILLA- DEBORST: jpadilladeborst@crcna.org

JOEL VAN DYKE: jvandyke@crcna.org

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