

# The Harvester



So that all may know Christ and be like Him



## From the Coast 'o Maine to Costa Rica

16 Mainers, 112 Gospel Conversations, 25 New Believers!

“Would you like to receive Jesus Christ in this way today? I asked Jennifer and her teen daughter, Lila. “Claro!” she exclaimed enthusiastically. Both women were overjoyed by the Good News. After praying and giving their lives to the Lord, Jennifer gushed in Spanish, “I wish my other kids were here to

accept Christ too!” Little did we know that some of our other teammates were sharing the Gospel with Jennifer’s kids at that moment. Only later in the day when our team convened to debrief did we realize that the whole family had put their faith in Jesus! This is the might and kindness of the God we serve. Hallelujah!

### Women’s Retreat

April 26-28 Thrive will be leading a women’s retreat on “Building Authentic Community.” Please pray for relational and spiritual growth.

### Elders’ Retreat

April 25-27 Thrive is leading an elder retreat for a church in western Maine. Pray for God’s guidance, unity, faith, and dependence on God’s Word.

### Dan’s Health

Dan ruptured his Achilles tendon just before going to Costa Rica. Please pray for him: surgery is tomorrow followed by a long recovery.



## Multiply

We are overjoyed to announce that our team has expanded through the birth of Jessica's sweet baby girl, Simone James Loose! Thank you for your prayers as Jess, Jason, and big sister, Margot, adjust to this precious new addition.



## Taking San Juan de Dios for God

*"I'd rather strike a match, than curse the dark" –Rend Collective*

It felt like we were pushing back the darkness. The ghetto we were assigned to in San Jose was called "Saint John of God" in English. However, it was a place of despair: drugs, violence, witchcraft, and poverty were rampant. People did not trust their neighbors. A gang controlled the area and the government had no plan to intervene. But God...

We worked alongside a church on the edge of this ghetto. Pastor Cesar's wife Vanessa had been shot twice in the thigh while sitting in the church eating lunch six years ago while her kids looked on. Yet they continue to serve, leading Sunday services and feeding eighty neighborhood kids five days a week. They

are the real heroes. Their sons walked us from house to house as we shared the Gospel and set up water filters for families in desperate need of clean water and hope.

Our translators were from a second church in Costa Rica not far from the ghetto but, they admitted, "we would never have gone there without you." I have to laugh that God used our American brashness to bolster the faith and service of the Body in Costa Rica. Now their church is serving other teams with Filter of Hope, and Pastor Cesar is leading a Bible study with new believers in the ghetto, as well. Home at last, our mission team is praying for eyes to see the open doors in Maine, too.

## A New Dawn

It was a new day this past month when Keith and Craig led the father-son retreat and Dan just "helped"! We are so blessed to have competent new staff on our team. Shawna meanwhile has been creating brochures and overseeing the website to fill a huge need on our team. I have begun new staff training here and for our Asheville, NC team as part of my Leadership Development role. We pray for new staff for our New Mexico team also.

## Good News

The water filter analogy is so easy to use that Dan was able to share the Gospel with the tellers at our bank just by sharing about our mission trip with them. Please pray that they will remain curious and consider Jesus.

We are also excited that John, our neighbor at camp who Dan led to the Lord this fall, has begun attending church!

*Have a blessed Resurrection Week! Love, Dan & Heather*