



Icthus Prayer & Praise

February 2010

COSTA RICA VISION TRIP SUCCESS



Vision Team meeting with Icthus Kids.
(L to R top): Eduardo Ramirez,
Carol Kocherhans, Jack & Joyce Stothers,
Rebeca Arriaza, and Frank Tranzow.

The team of four travelers returned Sunday evening, Jan. 24th, from a Vision Trip to Costa Rica, lead by Rebeca Arriaza of Guatemala and hosted by Eduardo Ramirez of Costa Rica. They are bubbling with stories of their 9 day trip.

Frank Tranzow said he was impressed by the deep, long term influence of Icthus in the lives of children, their parents, and churches.

Jack Stothers was impressed with how the leaders organized the camp and how respectful all the children were of each other and their guides.

Joyce Stothers said that at the end of the camp some the children were crying - they didn't want it to end. She also commented about how kind people were.

Carol Kocherhans said that she loved the camp, the activities, and the opportunity to work with the kids.

OUR PURPOSE:

To equip young people for Christian service and leadership.

DO YOU WISH YOU COULD HAVE GONE ON THE VISION TRIP?

Did you want to go to Costa Rica, but couldn't? We plan to have more vision trips, so stay tuned. If you want us to arrange a trip for your church, don't wait – let us know.



Jack & Joyce Stothers in front of the bungalow where they stayed in Fortuna, Costa Rica.

THE VISION TRIP MADE A DIFFERENCE

Eduardo Ramirez, the trip coordinator in Cost Rica, said, "The vision team participated and prayed with groups, shared with the national leaders, helped in the camp and did service projects with the children in different parts of the country. They got to see that there is more to Icthus than most people realize".

He also said, "The visit encouraged and motivated the National Committee and the Icthus groups, especially those in the rural areas. They don't get

many visitors. This international visit showed them that what they are doing for children is important".



The Vision Team divided into two groups to teach classes at the camp. Rebeca and Frank taught the kids how to set up a tent. Frank left the tent and other gear for future camps. The others brought various types of gifts to help Icthus also.

CELL PHONES, INKJET CARTRIDGES, AND CARS

What do these three things have in common? They help children have Icthus.

In 2009 \$741 was raised! That is enough to help provide Icthus to 2 groups for a whole year – more than 40 children! Thank you.

Please join us in collecting and recycling. It is an easy way to help kids and our environment. We can tell you how to do it. Let us know.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ICTHUS MANUALS

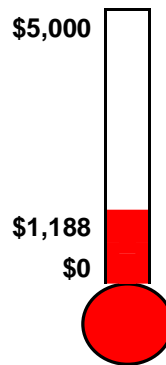
Someone once said that manuals are the life blood of our ministry. They provide the curriculum and content for much of what the children learn. Of the 5 Icthus programs for children and parents, the biggest and most urgent need now is for manuals for the Legion Program. Kids ages 10 to 14 and their guides lack manuals.

The manuals contain all the plans and resources needed for running an Icthus program for 3 years. At the end of that time, the program cycles back and begins again at the beginning. Many guides have used their manuals through two or more cycles.

MANUAL PRINTING PROJECT

We are almost finished revising the manuals for the Icthus Legion Program for 10 to 14 year olds.

To print them will require at least \$5,000. This will provide for the children and guides in existing groups as well as new ones.



Since December, \$1,188 has been raised. We are praying that Icthus friends will help accomplish this project within 2 months.

The approximate cost for printing the manuals is \$5 each. \$500 will provide for 100 manuals. \$100 will help print 20. How many can you help to print? Would this be something that you could involve your Sunday school class in doing as a project?

The question that keeps coming back to me is: *How much greater would the impact of Icthus be if we had enough manuals?*

SHARING SCARCE RESOURCES



The Vision Team visited the home of Joel and David and their mother Saulyn (center). Their great aunt holds their manual.

Joel and David, ages 12 and 10, are two Icthus kids who live in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Vision Team visited them in their home and got to know their mother and great aunt. The boys joined Icthus last year and are working on the Arrow of Prayer part of the manual (part of the Armor of God from Ephesians 6).

These brothers were fortunate because both got manuals when they joined Icthus.

Recently, however, a new child joined who can't get a manual because there are no more. Joel and David have loaned her one of theirs until Icthus is able to get more. Other children who don't have the possibility of having or borrowing a copy make do by writing what they learn in small notebooks.

This is a typical story that is playing out in all the countries. Almost half of the kids in Costa Rica don't have manuals. Right now Costa Rica needs at least 150 kid's manuals and at least 50 guide's sets. Join the printing project.



David & Joel with the manual they share.