



Touch of Fire Ministries

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Faces of Ministry

TOFM News

UCA News

2017 UCA / TOFM Calendar



Message from Scott & Brigit

Well, another year in Costa Rica! At this point they seem to just fly by! Abi just turned 13 a few days ago, and as I walked down memory lane, I remembered that she was just eight years old when we first arrived. Oh, she didn't like it very much at first! But now, she says she will always live here. Isn't it funny how things change? Isaac has enjoyed life in the tropics since the very beginning, and he continues to enjoy all of the outdoor activities here...like swimming, surfing, soccer, etc. In the last year or so, he started his own website business...he builds websites for local businesses, and really enjoys it. The only things Isaac misses a lot are family and food! Yes, as a young man now 15 years old, food is one of the most important things in life. In my house, we are always planning the next meal.

The year 2016 was a marvelous one! Another year of success at Uvita Christian Academy (UCA), another year of growing in our Lord, and another year of working with people we love from Indiana. It's true! We've even been excited to see teachers from UCA give their hearts to the Lord - this is a big win!

As Scott and I prayed together the other night, God spoke to us about the condition of the people around us. He spoke to us about how things are NOT as they seem, and how so many lives are in turmoil...husbands, wives and families just really struggling...struggling with money, struggling to get along with each other, struggling to find meaning in this life. So many turn to drinking and drugs, just trying to cover up the pain. So, based on that insight from the Holy Spirit, we try to have more compassion and mercy, understanding that "hurting people hurt people."

You know, I'm sure the same may be true in the lives of people around you - people are hurting every where. Don't expect the ungodly to be godly...don't expect people who don't yet know the love of God to show you the love of God. Bless your enemies and speak well of them. This is the way God works.

Enjoy the year 2016 in review! Thank you for loving us, helping us, and believing that God has called us to Costa Rica! Scott and I want to give a special thanks to our ever-faithful friend, Jean Hooten, who takes care of so many details stateside - including making sure this newsletter is in your hands! God bless you, Jean!

The Faces of Ministry



Contact Touch of Fire Ministries and Uvita Christian Academy

Mail: P.O. Box 941, Greenwood, Indiana, 46142 / Email: Scott.Bogard@touchoffire.net

Websites: touchoffire.net / uvitachristianacademy.org



Reflection and Review



In 2016, TOFM hosted another student team from the Greenwood, Indiana area. It was very special, because our niece (Mikayla) and nephew (Wyatt) were able to travel to Costa Rica to touch lives in the Name of Jesus, and to see where we live! They got a little taste of our lives, which was special for us. We do miss our family!

This year, the team ministered in the town of Quepos, about an hour north of where we currently live. The team came alongside a church called More Than Conquerors (MTC) to advertise and host Christian events for the local community. A local Christian organization called "Recreation 3-2-1" lead games for the young people in Quepos, and a motorcycle club called "Soldiers for Jesus" traveled from San José to perform tricks and stunts on their bikes. They shared a powerful message for the entire Quepos community about forgiveness, love and mercy. Our hardworking team blessed the church by doing some cleaning and painting, too. The kiddos from our team also had the chance to share an important message about the gift of the Holy Spirit - they presented a skit, and encouraged others to give their hearts to the Lord.

The team was a further blessing to the ministries of Uvita Christian Academy, and Iglesia de la Costa church. The team pitched in and worked down a 'to do' list at UCA which included pulling weeds on the playground, cleaning and setting up a new classroom, and cleaning up grounds around the school - there were so many "scrap" materials left behind following a remodeling activity where the school space is rented. The team then put the first coat of paint on the building Iglesia de la Costa recently moved into.

Thank you to everyone that supported the team and for the prayers showered over them while they were ministering in Costa Rica. And, it was great to see the faces of our friends from Greenwood - it means so much to know you think of us, and choose to come to Costa Rica!



Then he said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 18:3



UCA Student Sponsorship

We want to see students who desire to attend our school receive that opportunity.

Through partners of UCA this is made possible.

Consider being a UCA Student Sponsor.



Reflection, Review, What's to come....

Uvita Christian Academy is a special place...I really see it as a lighthouse in our little town. Sometimes when I'm walking to get some exercise, the Holy Spirit will ask me to declare things like, "Jesus is Lord over Uvita! Jesus is Lord over Dominical! Jesus is Lord over the entire Southern Zone of Costa Rica." At first, I felt strange, but then realized that God needs a prophetic voice. He needs your voice and mine to announce the things He wants to accomplish. We serve a God Who calls things that don't exist, as if they already do. He has planted our school in this region very strategically, and we plan to do what He asks of us. This includes laying the foundation to open another Bible-believing Christian school in the town of San Isidro, about one hour from where we live. Our plan is for classes to begin at the beginning of 2018. This year, we plan to begin the groundwork. God has given us qualified and responsible teachers to handle the affairs of UCA, which allows for a little more travel to get things ready. Please pray for us! We believe firmly that this is what God wants for us. San Isidro is the second largest city in Costa Rica, and yet there is no Christian school.

We ask you to pray for our weekly Chapel services. Every classroom has a weekly Chapel on Friday morning. We're excited because we have a commitment from Heather DeSanctis, a local musician and committed Christian, who will play music during our weekly services. She really connects with the kids, and helps them to see that people from all walks of life are Christians. Last year, during Chapel, students heard about God and His ways, of course, but not many decisions were made to serve Jesus with students in grades 5 - 12. I understand that seed was sown into their hearts, and believe that when they're in a time of need, they'll remember what they heard and will know they can call upon our God. Our younger students in grades Pre-Kinder through 4th, tend to be a little more receptive. They're even eager to learn Bible stories and enjoy Chapel a lot. They always lift their hands to get saved! It's the cutest thing. They openly love God, and talk about Him.

In 2016, we had a few students who started attending church at the local Christian church in our area; they started going to the Friday night youth group, too. That might not seem like a big deal to you, but let me assure you, it's a big deal. Especially when some of the families involved are NOT Christian families.

Although progress seems slow sometimes, we believe that God is doing a work. Even though older students don't talk about it, I know they are taking things in...the Holy Spirit has told us this. Even though they aren't the most vocal about faith in God, they ARE listening and receiving. In their midnight hour, they are learning Who to call upon. Scott and I, our staff and our teachers, are always available to give godly advice and to counsel them, if they ask for it.

Keep in mind that most families who send their children to our school are NOT Christian families. This is why it's such a miracle to be able to teach their kids every day! Most come from New Age, Buddhist, Hindu, or Chaman circles...they do not submit to Jesus as Lord, but still think it's good for their kids to at least learn about all the "religious options out there." We capitalize on this!



Highlights from 2016 ... to come in 2017

April / August 2016 - UCA Receives New Teachers: Stefany Navarro for grades 1-3, and Stephanie Langford for grades 7-12.

September 2016 - UCA Hosts Independence Day Celebration

- Joined with local public school to experience traditional celebration - Sept. 14th
- UCA's first Independence Day Celebration on school grounds - Sept. 15th (students presented a typical, Costa Rican dance, sang traditional songs, or constructed "faroles" - a hand-made lantern specially made to mark Costa Rica's independence.)

November 2016 - UCA Hosts Important Parent Meeting

- Announces rate increase to be able to acquire land to build our own building, scout and hire bi-lingual teachers, and to increase quality of classrooms.

December 2016 - UCA Hosts First Science Fair

- Students presented their projects to their families and the community.

January 2017 - UCA Receives NEW TEACHERS

- UCA receives new Environmental Science teacher from England, Molly Traviss
- UCA receives new teacher for Kindergarten, Ocalin Salazar

February 2017 - School year starts and UCA introduces new "tracks" for students in high school: Art, Science/Medicine, Technology, Ministry/Missionary, Trades/Vocations, Business

Throughout all of 2017, UCA lays groundwork to open a new school in the city of San Isidro in 2018.



Touch of Fire Ministries
P.O. Box 941
Greenwood, IN 46142



Touch of Fire Ministries
Taking the Gospel to the nations
with passion and purpose!

