

Crusaders for the Fatherless

Mission Bogota: 7 days. 20 volunteers. 500 orphans. 1 God



gota * January 8-14, 2012 Mission Bogota * January 8-14, 2012

Crusaders for the Fatherless (C4F) was started by a family of faith who felt the calling of the Lord to work with orphans in Colombia.

Bogota is Colombia's capital with over 7 million people. Bogotá is the largest city in Colombia, and one of the biggest of Latin America. It figures amongst the thirty largest cities of the world.

At 8,661 feet above sea level on a high plateau in the Andes Mountains, Bogota boasts as the third highest capital city.

Due to its location, the city has a subtropical climate with the average temperature being 57 degrees. January experiences temperatures ranging from the low 40's at night to the low 70's during the day.

32% of Bogota citizens live in poverty earning less than \$2 per day.

Colombia is a beautiful country, but 40 years of civil war has brought poverty, violent crime, and narco-trafficking, resulting in some 820,000 innocent orphans who suffer the most and must survive daily under dire circumstances that were not of their own making. When they "age out" at 18 and are forced to leave the orphanages, they are at high risk of homelessness, drug trafficking, prostitution and suicide. Colombia is one of the top three countries for child prostitution in the Western Hemisphere.

Historically, Bogota is traditionally Roman Catholic. However, the 1991 constitution has facilitated the presence of Protestant movements and other religious groups.

If you have room in your heart for the orphans of Colombia, your involvement in this mission trip will give these precious children a chance of experiencing unconditional love and, perhaps for the first time in their young lives, hope for a future.

What these beautiful children need most is love and hope, which C4F dispenses liberally. The return on your investment is priceless; you'll be making a difference in a child's life that would otherwise be forgotten.

It is estimated there are between 143 million and 210 million orphans worldwide (recent UNICEF report.) The UNICEF orphan numbers do not include abandonment (millions of children) as well as sold and/or trafficked children. The current population of the United States is just a little over 300 million...to give you an idea of the enormity of the numbers.

According to data released in 2003 as many as eight million boys and girls around the world live in institutional care. Some studies have found that violence in residential institutions is six times higher than violence in foster care, and that children in group care are almost four times more likely to experience sexual abuse than children in family based care.

Every day 5,760 more children become orphans

Approximately 250,000 children are adopted annually, but...

Each year 14,505,000 children grow up as orphans and age out of the system by age sixteen

Each day 38,493 orphans age out of the institutions with nowhere to go

Every 2.2 seconds another orphan ages out with no family to belong to and no place to call home

Studies have shown that 10% – 15% of these children commit suicide before they reach age eighteen

These studies also show that 60% of the girls become prostitutes and 70% of the boys become hardened criminals

Another study reported that of the 15,000 orphans aging out of state-run institutions every year, 10% committed suicide, 5,000 were unemployed, 6,000 were homeless and 3,000 were in prison within three years.

An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked every year; 2 million children, the majority of them girls, are sexually exploited in the multibillion-dollar commercial sex industry.

Mission

Transforming the lives of orphans and those who minister to them through Christ centered missions, sponsorships and awareness.

Scripture

Isaiah 1:17 – Lean to do good, seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan plead for the widow.

Job 31:18 - I have been like a father to the orphans.



Who We Are

Crusaders for the Fatherless (C4F) was started by a family of faith who felt the calling of the Lord to work with orphans in Colombia. David Richardson, founder and President, has worked with other orphan non-profits for many years, but felt the strong calling to focus on this ministry with his family. He has joined with his sister, Charlotte Parrack and her husband Roy, to form Crusaders for the Fatherless.

All three have been to Colombia and fallen in love with the fatherless children there. The needs are many, and so 'Crusaders' was born out of a dream to not only do the will of the Lord and help the children, but to work closely with family to accomplish these goals.

David has built strong ties and relationships with the people and government of Colombia. He is the first Colombian International Padrino from Texas and works closely with Foundation Tayakai, to pool their efforts on behalf of the children. The #1 goal is, and always will be, the children.



Who will be in charge of the team on mission trips?

From the time you enter Bogota until the time you leave; you will be under the supervision of Crusaders team leaders. We partner with Foundation Tayakai, an in country foundation with the same goals: to help the children of Colombia. They always attend the trips with us.

Will I be safe?

Some amount of risk exists when you travel anywhere outside of the U.S. We will take every precaution to endure the safest trip possible. We consult state travel advisories, seek advice from in-country ground staff, inform participants of safety precautions, and pray for God's wisdom, guidance and wall of protection around us. We feel that we are here to do God's work and He will be with us.

What will I do?

Relationship building is one of the most important opportunities we have with these children who, for the most part, are very limited in the number of relationships they have outside the orphanage walls. Though you will be with the children for only a short amount of time, bonds will form quickly. They are so open to Christ's love in you. Your primary calling is to give the gift of your presence to the children whom God places in your path. We ask that you take every opportunity to pray for each child, as this may be the only prayer God will hear on their behalf.

Are there any inoculations that are required?

Consult with your doctor. All countries require you have an updated tetanus shot.

Is the water safe?

Do not drink the tap water. Bottled water will be provided.

How much money should I take?

You may find it convenient to have some cash on hand. We may go to a market or brief sightseeing trip. We recommend about \$200 for personal shopping needs. All of your lodging, meals and transportation are included in your fee.

What will we eat?

We will eat at the orphanages for lunch each day. Breakfast will be eaten at our hotel, and we may also go out for dinner or have dinner at the hotel. Meals are included in the cost of the trip.

Will my money and valuables be safe?

We make every effort to have safe accommodations, but you should always keep your money and passport in a secure location. Please leave your jewelry and other valuables that might attract attention at home.

What is the weather like?

Bogota has cool nights (low 40's) and moderate days (mid to high 70's) year round. We recommend you pack clothing you can layer. The sun can be intense at this high elevation, so you may want to bring a hat and sunscreen. There is usually no A/C or heaters in our accommodations, so plan accordingly.

What is the time difference?

There is no time difference between Texas and Bogota.

How will I communicate when I cannot speak Spanish?

You will be amazed at how much communication can be done without words! Smiles and hugs go a long way, as do facials. We will be playing games too, so fun is the order of the day! We will have translators to help along the way as well. We will provide common terms and phrases for you as well Spanish/English translator dictionaries.

Will internet and phone service be available?

Internet may be available periodically for those who wish to bring your laptops, but it is weak and spotty. Skype can be used to communicate via the internet for free. Check with your mobile provider about international travel rates for calls and texting, and be advised that phone service without these services can be very expensive.

Where will we stay?

The group is scheduled to stay at Club La Hacienda. (<http://www.clublahacienda.com>) The club is a 'cabin' setting with two bedrooms and one shared bathroom. Married couples will stay in a room together, and individuals will be placed with one or more roommates. Sometimes heat is not adequate so bring some warm sleeping clothes.

What if I get sick on the trip?

Most of the discomforts and illnesses that occur during international travel can be taken care of with over the counter medicines. Consult your doctor or pharmacist for over-the-counter and prescription medicines to help you with minor discomforts. Bring any prescription medicines in their original containers, along with any over the counter meds for colds and traveler's diarrhea. We recommend you carry prescriptions in your carry-on luggage so you have it with you if needed.



The orphans really look forward to meeting you and spending time with you! Your presence alone is enough of a gift. You do not need to bring any gifts. Do not give any money including coins to the children. We take bags of individually wrapped candy and suckers for the children, so you are welcome to pack a bag or two for this purpose.

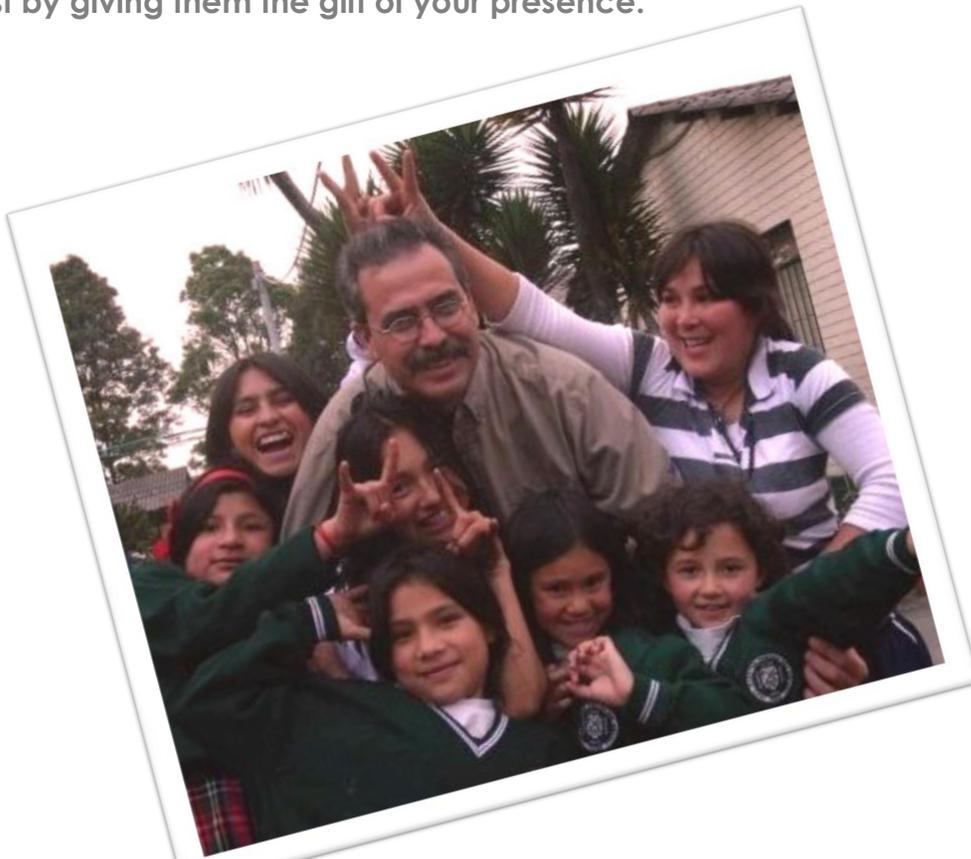
The children may ask you to adopt them. The appropriate response is "I will pray for God to send you a family."

Some of the children will crave your attention more than others. You are encouraged to play sports, do crafts and other activities with the children, and cheer them on. Others will be reluctant to join in activities. Encourage the shy ones to join, but do not force them.

Some of the orphanages may struggle to keep lice away. It is recommended that women pull their long hair back and out of the way. You may wish to use Lice Shield shampoo during your trip.

The orphans love to have their pictures taken, and to take pictures of you and their friends. Sometimes they may pose inappropriately for pictures, but they do not know any better. Nicely discourage this action and model examples of appropriate poses. If you choose to allow them to use your camera, know that it is possible for your photos to accidentally be erased.

Take every opportunity to minister to these orphans and share the love of Jesus Christ by giving them the gift of your presence.



Social Orphans

Many of the children you will meet do have families. Some grew up in a family for several years, but their families cannot take care of them for various reasons. Sometimes it is because the parents cannot afford to raise them; other times, it is because the parents divorced, were widowed, hospitalized or imprisoned. Some parents have had their parental rights revoked by the courts.

Some children will see their parents several times a year. They can go on vacation with their families and can go home periodically. Others have extended family members who care for them. They come to the orphanage to visit the child from time to time. Some have siblings scattered among other orphanages.

Others have siblings with them in the same orphanage. Some children have parents in the same town as the orphanage and yet are never visited by a family member.

There are some who have a sibling or two that have been adopted and, therefore, are struggling with the reality that they will most likely not be adopted. Some have lives on the streets and many more continue to live on the streets.

True Orphans

True orphans are children who have been abandoned. They have no parents or no knowledge of a family because they have been on the street or in an orphanage setting for their entire life. Parents are unknown and may be deceased.

Adoptable Orphans

Colombian law requires parents to visit their institutionalized child at least once every six months. If a child is a “true orphan” or if the parents of a “social orphan” visit them in the first six months, and never again after that time, the state can terminate their rights as parents and make the child available for adoption.

Padrino Program

Your team leaders are all Padrino's, which is a legal Godparent to the Colombian child. God may lay a particular child on your heart. If so, ask us how you can help this ministry and this particular child or children even more.



What should you bring?

Bible

Passport

Cash

Drivers License

Money belt or similar

C4F Mission trip information

Backpack or small bag

Clothing

Comfortable walking shoes

Necessary jewelry only

Medication

Toiletries

Personal snack food

Tissue/Toilet paper

Sunglasses/hat/sunscreen

1 towel

Warm sleeping clothes

Jacket or sweater

Computer and power cord (if you wish)

Camera/memory cards/batteries

Towels and bedding are provided by the hotel, but it is suggested to bring one extra towel. Place a copy of your passport in your luggage and carry the original on you at all times. Clothes should be modest, casual and culturally respectful; long shorts only if you must wear shorts. Bring a backpack with snacks and a roll of toilet paper (some of the restrooms do not have t.paper), along with any personal items you may need throughout the day. Prescriptions should be in original labeled container.