

# CHRISTMAS

## OUTREACH



We prepare for these parties, have everything in place and are ready to bless those we have come to serve. I believe we do bless them, but I have realized throughout the years that they bless me even more. I'm going to share a few photos from each of our parties.  
The photos in the oval frames are those that God used to impact me in some way.

### DAY ONE - PARTY PREP

Grab a bag and start circling the tables while filling it with stuffed animals, combs, crayons, pencils, Hot Wheels, small balls, girl's hair stuff, etc. Got the hang of it? Good, because we only have 4,999 more to go!



### DAY TWO - HOGAR DE ANCIANOS BETAÑIA

One of our special parties is the Betañia Home for the Aged. We have some watchers and we have some doers. Some love the games and crafts while others are just content to sit and enjoy the company.

\* This man was very interested in my camera and even familiar with the brand. There was a time when he was interested in photography. We sat for a while and he told me about his family and pastorate. He was such a positive person and he radiated the love of the Lord. This man was still touching lives whether he knew it or not.



### DAY TWO - DUMP AND DAYCARE

We toured the dump transfer station with a birds-eye view from the catwalk.

\* Watching a young mom picking through the garbage to provide the basic necessities of life for her children. Could I —would I?



*\*Eighth year and running for my sister to attend the parties. She'll soon be fluent in Spanish!*

### DAY THREE - EQUATOR

Good job, you got all your gift bags filled and in record time. That deserves an excursion to "Mitad del Mundo" which will place you at 0° latitude. You are at the middle of the world! ▶



### DAY THREE - NUEVOS AMIGOS NEW FRIENDS

During this week Quito was celebrating its Independence Day so all the children arrived in their cultural costumes to perform a presentation of their multiple folklore dances.

\* Before any of the activities began, this young boy came forward and prayed for God's blessings on their visitors (us) and the party. He had no idea what kind of impact that made.



Two other parties were happening simultaneously. **Esperanza/Hope Community** (new ministry) and **Dunamis**, which is a new ministry restoring lives of young women who have been victims of rape, sex trafficking, domestic abuse and labour trafficking.

**DAY FOUR - BUEN PASTOR** ■■■ **GOOD SHEPHERD**

This has become one of the favourite parties with everyone. A very unique community up in the mountains. 1,700 invitations/tickets were given out and over 2,000 waited in the street with hopes of getting in. You wouldn't think this community had that many people.

\* This couple come every year to the party. They have a knack or recognizing faces in crowd. They look for you! I saw them at a distance, after eye contact and a smile they came and gave me the cultural hug and cheek kiss. You're becoming family now!



**DAY FIVE - ZAMBIZA DUMP** ■■■

This is the main event of the week and where the Christmas parties began. At this party there are now national volunteers working alongside the Canadian and American volunteers.

\* Sitting alone, this boy's face just gripped me. The face of someone lost in deeper thoughts than a child should have. I wonder what his world demands from him.



**DAY SIX - REMANSO DE AMOR** ■■■ **HAVEN OF LOVE**

A very family oriented community and every family member comes to participate.

\* A brother looking after his younger sister drew me into their simple lives.



**DAY SEVEN - OTAVALO** ■■■ **DEBRIEFING**

This is the day they bus us to Otavalo and turn us loose in the open market. After an exhausting day of shopping we all gather for a debriefing before the teams begin the process of leaving.

**DAY EIGHT - HISTORICAL QUITO** ■■■ **SIGHTSEEING**

Due to the travel time to the new airport the Canadian team was forced to stay another day before flying home. We were able to spend some time in the Colonial City of Quito. This historic center has one of the largest, least-altered and best preserved historic centers in the Americas.

*Does this photo impact you?*



*We like to take a lot of credit for ourselves and what we accomplish on these mission trips, but I have found this quote that puts it all into perspective—*

*One minute of work by the Holy Spirit can accomplish what an infinite amount of work by the flesh never will.*

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