

Summer 2009

# SJ YOUTH MISSIONS

## 1 John 4:12

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.



## ECUADOR: A NEW MISSION FOR ST. JOHN'S YOUTH

**Exploring what it means to live in the way of Jesus: Building relationships, stretching our faith and growing in Christ Jesus by giving ourselves in service to our neighbors in need, both locally and internationally.**

The youth community of St. John's will be embarking on a new adventure this summer. We will be going on an international mission experience to Quito, Ecuador!

Our Diocesan Youth Ministry has developed a relationship with the Central Diocese of Ecuador (it is in Province IX of the Episcopal Church). Over the past year, we have helped take the Happening program to Ecuador; they just had Happening #3 recently! Happening #60 for our Diocese was this past December, and a group from Ecuador came to be a part of our Happening. Cameron Graham Vivanco is a missionary in Ecuador who was a youth director in our Diocese. Cameron's husband, Roberto, is the Diocesan Youth Director in Ecuador. They both work with Youth World, a missionary organization that trains

youth ministers in Ecuador, runs short term mission programs, and runs other local ministries in Ecuador. During Happening I got to know Cameron, Roberto, and two young people from Ecuador (Miguel and Estephania).

Through these new friendships, discussions, and prayer, we have decided to pursue a mission experience in Ecuador. There have been many groups from our Diocese who have participated in mission experiences in Ecuador with Cameron and Youth World, and I have heard so many positive experiences and stories.

For those who decide to pursue this experience, it will require a high level of dedication and involvement. See the next page and contact Dorian for more info about the trip.



**Roberto and Cameron Vivanco**  
Before becoming a missionary in Ecuador, Cameron was the youth director at Church of the Advent in Spartanburg.

# ECUADOR



## Facts and Figures:

Capital: Quito  
Quito is 15 miles south of the equator.

Elevation: 9500 Feet  
Year-round High: 64F  
Year-round Low: 55F

Quito is flanked by snow-capped volcanoes.

Over 38% of Ecuador lives under the international poverty line.

Quito has 8.9% unemployment and 43.8% underemployment.

Children, on average, only finish 6.7 years of school. In rural areas, only 10% of kids go onto high school.



## WEBSITES

Youth World  
[www.youthworld.org.ec](http://www.youthworld.org.ec)

Robert and Cameron Vivanco  
<http://crvministries.blogspot.com/>

## Ecuador Mission Details:

### **Informational Meeting:**

**Jan. 18 @ 3:30pm**

**Dates: July 9-17**

**Cost: approx. \$2,000 (\$100 deposit)**

**Passport (valid 6 months after trip)**

**Shots Needed: up-to-date/booster**

**doses of Tetanus-diphtheria and measles, Hep A, Hep B, and Yellow Fever. Anti-malaria meds may be needed.**

**Team Size: 10 minimum, 15 max**

**Grades: Current 9th and up**

**Deadline: Feb. 8**

**Application: download link on youth blog or see Dorian.**

We will have an opportunity for 4-5 different ministry experiences while in Ecuador (we will also experience both rural and urban settings). Some of the possible ministry experiences will be in these settings: a church plant in an indigenous jungle village, an orphanage, vacation Bible school, youth ministry, a ministry for street kids, construction/renovations, and others.

Cost of the trip includes: airfare to and from Quito, all food, housing, and transportation (Also, translators will be provided).

We will be fundraising together to raise the money to pay for this trip. Expect to write support letters, participate in some work projects and contribute a small amount personally to cover your trip costs. Each team member will receive instruction in letter writing as well as direction for raising up "senders". You are not expected or encouraged to pay for your own trip cost.

## What do we aim to accomplish?

We desire to be a blessing to the communities in Ecuador. We desire to learn and grow in our faith in Jesus and develop a larger Kingdom perspective in our lives. We also hope to learn something about the potential of our unique contribution to the Kingdom of God in Columbia, Ecuador, and the world.

## What should I expect?

This experience will challenge how you live your life of faith and how you arrange your life around the way of Jesus. You will be stretched and challenged in new ways and given new perspectives on your life and others' lives. A trip like this will have a huge and life-long impact on your life.



# HOME WORKS 2009



## sharing love thru service

**LEFT:** Taylor Jackson scraping and painting fascia. (Johns Is.)

**BELOW:** Katie Dubose sweeping a roof off. (Covington, LA)

**CIRCLE:** Ben Horst got some paint on himself! (Augusta, GA)



## Sharing the love and hope of Christ with others through service and labor.

Home Works is a ministry based here in Columbia, SC, and St. John's has been active in Home Works for many years. We participate in weekend blitzes and weeklong trips during the summer. Home Works serves communities all over the southeast. Last summer, St. John's participated in three trips: Augusta, GA; Covington, LA; and Johns Is., SC. Over 50 youth and adult volunteers from St. John's were involved in these trips!

The mission of Home Works is to show God's love for all through service to others and to assist other in their faith journey. Home Works' activities will focus on providing home repairs to homeowners in need, assisting youth in their development and empowering communities to meet the needs of its members.



When serving homeowners in need, you never know what type of work you might get assigned to: scraping and painting, siding, roofing, replacing flooring, plumbing, etc. No experience is needed. The junior high trip is a great entry level mission experience with formation time to learn about why God calls us to serve others in need (most of the work is painting and cleaning).

The dates and info are below for this year's Home Works trips. You can download the forms off of the youth blog. Space is limited, so please sign up as soon as possible. There is a \$50 deposit due at signup for the Sr. High trips (could be reimbursed depending upon fundraising). **Signup ASAP as space is limited.**

Jr High Home Works	Sr High Home Works	Sr High Home Works
<p>June 12 - 16 (Fri - Tue)                      Augusta, GA - Cost: \$40                      12+ youth and 3-4 adults                      Current 5th - current 8th grades</p>	<p>July 12 - 19 (Sun - Sun)                      Covington, LA                      Cost: \$150 (\$50 deposit)                      Rising 9th - 12th grades</p>	<p>July 26 - Aug 2 (Sun - Sun)                      Johns Island, SC                      Cost: \$150 (\$50 deposit)                      20 youth and 5 adults                      Rising 9th - 12th grades</p>

**SIGN UP FORMS AVAILABLE AT: [STJOHNSCOLUMBIAYOUTH.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://STJOHNSCOLUMBIAYOUTH.BLOGSPOT.COM)**

# FUNDRAISING AND PRAYER SUPPORT

It is a reality that mission experiences cost money. Sometimes they are very expensive. Overhead costs can include: travel, gas, food, registration fees, supplies, and so much more. So fundraising is a very important aspect of mission experiences for many reasons.

On the surface, fundraising helps provide the funds needed to make a trip happen. But fundraising is important for other reasons too. Fundraising helps build community. It helps an individual invest themselves in their mission

## St. Francis of Assisi:

Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.

experience. It helps a faith community invest in sending out their missionaries. Fundraising is an extension of the mission experience itself.

So, who should be involved in the fundraising for a mission experience? Everyone in the parish community! It is important that we are all involved. That doesn't mean that everyone needs to give financially (but of course that is encouraged and welcomed!)...it also means that everyone needs to be physically involved in the different fundraising events. Giving our time and talents is just as important.

As we prepare for these experiences, we hope to see everyone invested and immersed in the mission experience.

## Prayer Support

Another important aspect of mission experiences is prayer. Prayer is the backbone of any mission experience. The individuals going on the trips will be immersed in prayer, praying for themselves, their team, and the



sharing  
God's love &  
serving together  
as Christ's  
body

people they will be serving. The parish will need to lift the individuals and team up in prayer, praying for their preparation, the work they will be doing, and for the people they will be serving.

Prayer establishes and maintains a connection with God throughout the mission experience, and we need everyone in the parish supporting the groups through prayer.



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