
CELEBRATING A YEAR

The Watters Serving in Costa Rica | Estudiantes Cristianos Unidos (ECU)

Influence and Investment



Maribel a Student Rachel is Discipling



Cartago Technology Weekly Small Group



UCIMED Leadership Gathering

Since the beginning of the new school year (February) we have had the opportunity to serve on a number of different campuses in the Central Valley. Rachel has been working with a group of students at an engineering school called Cartago Tech. Each week this semester they have had new students attend their bible study. The student leaders are so excited about this and are gaining a heart for outreach. Joel has been walking alongside students at a private medical school called UCIMED. It has been such a joy to get to know these new friends, study the bible together and work to reach the campus with the Gospel. Every other week Joel has been leading a creative prayer time over the lunch hour and in the opposite week the group has a bible study. Next week they will hold their first outreach event on campus to create spiritual conversation around the theme of spiritual health.



Joel & I led a two hour training at our National Leaders Camp on creative evangelism strategies all in Spanish!

Family Update



One of our prayers before we came to Costa Rica was to arrive by Rachel's birthday. Just last week we celebrated Rachel's second birthday in Costa Rica! At times it is hard to believe we have been here a year and other times it feels like we just arrived. In August, we graduated from language school. We have learned so much and feel equipped to serve the Lord in Spanish! Our kids are growing and are so sweet and brave! Lucy just lost her two front teeth and started kindergarten. Charles loves coloring, soccer and playing with Legos. Annie Pearl loves being with her siblings, playing momma, is full of opinions and works hard to make her voice heard. We love them oh so much and are so proud of them and the way they have transitioned to life in Costa Rica.

Address update: We will send out a new address as soon as we have one! We would love to get your Christmas cards so for now, please send any mail to 2260 Grande Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403.

Vision for Our Future in Costa Rica

For the last eight years the leaders of ECU have been praying for an opportunity to begin student groups in the southern region of the country. The organization began 40 years ago and never has had a presence in this area. It has been difficult to reach due to the fact that it is much more rural and jobs are difficult to find (the majority of staff that are



part of our movement are volunteers, working full time professionally). ECU has asked us to plant ministry and start new student groups on the universities in this region.

We are really excited for this opportunity. The southern zone is much more rural and life will be quite a bit different than in the big busy capital city of San Jose. With the mountains, pineapple farms and year round greenness it is not Iowa but for Costa Rica it's about as close as it gets :) Also, we have had many experiences with planting new student groups with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in the United States and love the call of starting something new.

In June one of our dreams in coming to Costa Rica came true as we hosted our first student team from InterVarsity. Part of our time included heading to what will be our new home while doing outreach and service on campus. It was such a gift to have this team with us! We had been praying for God to go ahead of us and prepare the way. We were overwhelmed by His faithfulness. We met over 150 students and received contact information of over 50 students that expressed a desire to join us in starting ECU on their campus! We met faculty that were thrilled to hear we were coming and the director of student life expressed if there is anything she could do to help to please let her know. Multiple students told us how they had been praying for a Christian group to begin on campus. We believe the harvest is plentiful.



We are excited for this next season that the Lord has put before us. There are many unknowns but we trust in His continued faithfulness. Please be praying for our family as we begin the search for a home, a school for our kids, a church and a community of friends.



Thank You & Mark Your Calendars!

We have "summer break" here over Thanksgiving and Christmas so we have decided to come home for the holidays (SHHH... if you by chance see Rachel's dad Terry, don't tell him... we are trying to surprise him for his 60th birthday :) We will be sending out more information of gatherings in Pella and Cedar Rapids, but are so excited to re-connect and share more about life in Costa Rica. Just a reminder, you can give online at www.givetoiv.org/racheljoelwatters or use the business reply envelope included by writing Joel and Rachel Watters on the donation line. It is hard to express our gratitude for your partnership. You really are part of the gospel going forward in Latin America. Thank you for sending us and investing in the Kingdom of God!