

## WHY GREAT CITIES?

by Blake Crowell,  
Director of Development



Cucuta, Colombia

**FOR OVER FORTY YEARS,** Great Cities Missions has been transforming lives and changing communities by helping church planting mission teams establish churches in the Latin World. Our staff is our ministry. When you support Great Cities Missions, you support people like **Chris Fry**.

Chris is Director of Latin Teams for Great Cities Missions and perfectly suited for this role. Chris and his wife Vickie spent 8 years working to plant a church in Asuncion, Paraguay. They left Asuncion in 2011 leaving behind a thriving church completely led by nationals. When they returned, Chris joined

the staff at West Dyersburg Church of Christ as Family Minister, then became the Preaching Minister.

But the people of Latin America were still on his heart, so he joined Great Cities in 2015. He works tirelessly, traveling to recruit Latin Americans who have a heart to share Jesus Christ with others, and helping train them with an urban church planting strategy. He works equally as hard visiting churches to find support for our Latin teams. Since joining Great Cities, Chris has helped 5 teams plant churches in Colombia, Cuba, and Mexico City.

Great Cities is fortunate to have someone like Chris Fry who is so dedicated to Sharing Christ with the Latin World. ▼

Chris Fry ►

The Fry Family ▼





# Join us *on our journey.*

Feeding the hungry. Clothing those in need. Sheltering the poor.  
By planting churches in the Latin world.



## Feeding Souls in Cucuta, Colombia

by Kelley Grant, Executive Director

In May, I had the opportunity to visit the mission team and new church plant in Cucuta, Colombia with a group of four other men. The new church is doing great, with an average Sunday morning attendance of over 100 people. While those numbers are impressive, what really excited me were the ongoing Bible studies that the mission team is leading on a weekly basis with Christians and non-Christians alike.

The mission team told me that the secret to their success so far has been their ability to visit people in their homes. These visits almost always include a Bible study that is either evangelistic or educational in nature. Several of these Bible studies have grown into full-fledged small groups.

The team currently has 60 different studies that are occurring on a regular basis. We had the opportunity to be a part of these studies with the mission team. The team normally goes out in groups of two and might visit as many as four different houses in one evening. The team is warmly received in the Colombian homes, and many of the studies take place on front porches with the hope that curious neighbors might become interested enough to participate.

Another way that the team is helping the new Christians to grow in their relationship with God is by serving others – primarily through the distribution of food and medicine to Venezuelan Christians.

While we were there, our group purchased food to make sandwiches for the Venezuelan Christians who had traveled about four hours to receive the bags. We assumed the group might be hungry, but we did not expect the response we received. They were more than grateful for the sandwiches, chips, cookies and coke that we served them. We then sent them on their way with extra sandwiches for their return trip. We found out later that they did not eat the extra sandwiches, but instead saved them to give to their wives and children when they returned home.

We are humbled by the Venezuelans' response to something as simple as a sandwich. This moving experience changed our perception of the things that we take for granted in our own lives.



*“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” — Matthew 5:40*

## A Vision for New Churches Led by National Leaders

The Vision of Great Cities Missions has always been to establish churches in the capital cities of Brazil and South America by making disciples. This vision includes a strategy for church-planting mission teams to work themselves out of a job and leave behind thriving, nationally-led churches. The essence of the vision is to disciple young Christians into mature Christians who see the need for Christ around them and share the good news of Christ, not as North American missionaries, but as Brazilians, Colombians, Chileans and Mexicans. Recently, Great Cities Missions added two new board members who represent Portuguese and Spanish Speaking South America and are wonderful examples of the National leaders God is raising up.

### José Carlos Bianchini Sottomaior

José Carlos was baptized and has been a member of the Church of Christ in Curitiba, Brazil since 1991. He



has served as an elder since 2011. He is also professor of the ACE - Spiritual Growth Class on Sundays. Jose Carlos has a shepherds heart and reaches out to encourage the church family and others.

He is married to Elisa and they have two children: Fábio recently married,

lives in Curitiba and works in advertising; Fabiana is a biologist and lives with her husband in South Carolina.

José Carlos owns Eco Products, a company that has developed equipment (a 'Kwayb'), which grinds and dries agricultural, residential, industrial and forest waste material, thus transforming an environmental liability into a product such as biomass, animal feed, or fertilizer.

### Alejandro Yegros

Alejandro was born in Asuncion, Paraguay on March 12, 1953. He married Nora Delfino Yegros in 1983 and they have five children: Alejandro, Luis, Romina, Helena and Mauricio. They also have four grandkids.



Alejandro has degrees in Chemistry and Engineering from universities in Paraguay and France. He is the owner and CEO of a textile factory. He speaks Spanish, French, English, German and can

get by in Portuguese. His travels and education have taken him throughout the Americas and Europe.

While attending engineering school in Europe, in 1979 he was born-again into Christ. After returning to South America, he has been involved in the church. He enjoys serving as a teacher, preacher and leader, and has been blessed to be a part of and a speaker at the Iberoamerica Conference.

The Yegros family has been dedicated to serving God in the church and community.

Alejandro's oldest children live in Asuncion. Helena lives with her husband in Detroit, Michigan. Mauricio is married with two kids and works with the GCM church planting team in the Miami, FL area.

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