

## WHY GREAT CITIES?

by Chris Fry,  
Director of Latin Teams



Cúcuta, Colombia Soccer Ministry

**FOR OVER FORTY YEARS,** Great Cities Missions has been helping church planting mission teams establish churches in the Latin World. When you support Great Cities Missions, you support people like **Joel Cardenas**.

When Joel Cardenas entered the hospital in Cúcuta, Colombia for routine back surgery on August 30, everyone expected him to return to his normal routine and continue his passion for his newfound Savior and church family. Unfortunately, four days later his body went into cardiac arrest and could not be revived. He was only 39 years old. Joel had only been a Christian for about three months before leaving this world. He came into contact with the Cúcuta Iglesia de Cristo through their children's soccer ministry and formed a relationship with missionary Ronald Sabino and evangelist Nestor Correa. His fiancé, Erica, was the mother of a soccer student, and he and Erica began spending a lot of time there. Joel was eager to study the bible with Nestor and Ronald and to

know Jesus. Soon he was baptized and right away became active in the church. He accompanied Ronald and Nestor on evangelistic visits. He wanted to learn and to serve. He was active in almost every event of the church. His fire for the Lord was evident to all. With a new passion for the Lord, Joel was eager to share what he had found in Jesus. His fiancé Erica also became a believer and was baptized in July. They were planning to get married in November in their new church. Even when he was in the hospital, he was sharing his new faith with others. He gave his Bible to another patient just days before his untimely death.

At Great Cities Missions, our mission statement "Sharing Christ With The Latin World" allows us to fulfill that mission in many creative ways — soccer schools in Mexico and Colombia, food and medical supplies to take into Venezuela, missionary renewals to encourage and refresh those on the front lines. However, this story reminds us that

the most important way that we Share Christ With the Latin World is by planting church after church after church so that the lost can be saved.



Joel Cardenas (center) and Nestor Correa (right) evangelizing in Cúcuta.

I am reminded of Romans 10:15b "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Just think, what would have happened to Joel if he had not encountered the Cúcuta Iglesia de Cristo and their soccer ministry? But God used this church to reach Joel and Erica and save their souls.

When you support Great Cities Missions, you are making a difference for eternity. ▼

# GreatCities MISSIONS

greatcities.org

45+ teams

35 cities

11 countries

150+ sponsoring churches

Resulting in  
250+ church plants  
and **thousands** of disciples!

And we have **1** Mission... Sharing Christ with the Latin World.

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



**Arlington, Texas**  
Elder Appointment



**Huehuetoca, Mexico**  
Soccer Ministry



**Alborada, Mexico**  
Church Building Inauguration



**Cucuta, Colombia**  
Church Growth,  
Venezuela Relief Aid &  
Soccer Ministry



**Iguazu Falls, Brazil**  
Mission Team Recruiting

**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**  
Second Generation Hispanic Church Plant

**Boa Vista, Brazil**  
Bi-Vocational Team Formation and Future Plans

Connections/Conexiones

Continuing our mission of Sharing Christ with the Latin World is only possible because of your support in providing necessary resources. Thank you for your support in 2019!

**6,700**

Relief Bags Sent into Venezuela



**15,120**

Zoom Video Conferencing Minutes

**42,300**

Emails Sent



**246**

Domestic and International Flights



**80**

Kids in Soccer School



**209**  
Binders Assembled

**86**  
Cards of Encouragement

**5,000+**  
Stamps



**6,654** CUPS OF COFFEE



Connections missionary renewal retreats attended by **117** men and women from **16** countries

**3** GOLF TOURNAMENTS

**3** Courses  
**3** States

**304**  
Players

**23**

Board Members

GreatCities MISSIONS

**10**

Former Missionary Staff Members



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**This time of year can be challenging for missionaries so far from home. Reach out and let them know you are praying for them and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

## Please remember Great Cities Missions in your year-end giving!

December is an incredibly important month for our ministry. Half of all donations we receive each year are made in December. This year is even more important to remember Great Cities Missions in your year-end giving because we have a sizeable revenue gap we are doing our best to close. Every dollar amount helps us get closer to closing that gap and gets the ministry off to a good start next year.

**Thank you for your support!  
You are helping change lives for eternity!**