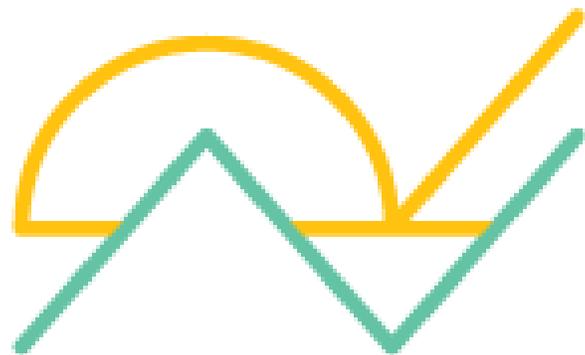




CARPIO MINISTRIES



RENUEVOS
HACIA NUEVOS HORIZONTES

CARPIO

THE MINISTRIES OF CHRIST FOR THE CITY

Carpio is a squatter community of approximately 35,000 people, living in very simple “homes” in an area of about a quarter of a square mile. The community began in 1993 when the first families began invading the area, which did not have clear property ownership.

1995 -- With a group of Christians from Rincón Grande de Pavas (located right across the ravine), we began showing the JESUS film out-doors in different areas of Carpio. This led to out-door Sunday afternoon church services. And later that same year we obtained the corner property at the second bus stop where we began constructing a simple building of corrugated tin – a center for a variety of activities –the **EDUCATIONAL BUILDING**.

1996 – In March of this year, a medical clinic was launched in a small room (3m x 3m) in that building. Two years later in 1998, the **CARPIO CHRISTIAN CLINIC** moved across the street to a brand new building constructed with funds donated by Costa Rican business men. In 2013 the clinic was enlarged with a two story addition on the front funded by business men from HOPE Charity (NY).

1998 -- God miraculously provided the funding, and enabled us to purchase a large property (3.2 acres) at the far end of the community. The original plan was to have a day care center there. But God closed the door on that possibility. After four years of frustration and doubts and lots of prayer, God gave us a whole new vision: He had given us the property to serve the youth of Carpio. So a brand new ministry, eventually called **RENUEVOS**, was born.

- ❖ 2001-2002 -- Construction of the first floor of the Refuge as a center for ministry to girls. A second floor was added in 2005.
- ❖ 2003 -- Dedication of New Horizons as a place for ministry to boys. Little by little we were able to construct the building that now houses this ministry.
- ❖ 2005 -- Beginning of the Life Institute with one student.
- ❖ 2014 – A third floor was added to the New Horizons building to accommodate the vocational workshops made possible through a generous 2 year grant from the US Embassy. In addition a day care center was added in the second floor of the Refuge.
- ❖ 2017 – The Saturday program became co-ed with added options for activities.

2016 – Down at the bottom of **LAS GRADAS**, a meeting room was constructed over a play-area for outreach to this very poor and isolated area of la community.

2017 – A former church building at the far end of Carpio was donated to Christ for the City opening many options of ministry as a new **CENTER for URBAN TRANSFORMATION**.

2019 – A second piece of property was obtained down at **LAS GRADAS** and in 2021-2022 the counseling center called Agua Viva was constructed

2021-2021 – A major construction project took place and a long-awaited two story permanent building was erected behind the original corrugated tin Educational Building -- known as “La Segunda” because it is located on the corner of the second bus stop.

EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

- Remedial classes for school-age children so they can learn to read, achieve good reading comprehension, and master math. With the remedial classes, we help kids learn so they don't end up flunking and dropping out of school. In addition, children who are not in school come to learn to read and write. The children come for this one-on-one tutoring three afternoons a week. Always there is singing and a Bible lesson as part of the program.
- Our church Seguidores de Jesús meets in the new building. This began in 2009 with classes for children. In 2010, we expanded the program to include young people and adults. And in June, 2022 Alvin Navarrete became the pastor of the church. On Sundays we have classes for pre-schoolers, school age children, pre-adolescents, youth and adults. Our goal is to disciple the children, young people, and adults who have come to know Christ through the various programs, and to ground them in the Scriptures.
- Two Bible studies on Thursday evenings – one for youth and the other for adults
- Club de Canas Felices – every other month there is a special activity for the elderly with low impact exercises, singing, devotional, craft and lunch.
- The new building has a counseling center where our psychologists will see their clients

CARPIO CHRISTIAN CLINIC

- Each day begins with a short devotional.
- General out-patient medical care is given four mornings a week by our two dedicated doctors. Patients with acute and chronic conditions are seen. We can do EKG's and some lab exams. We provide certain methods of birth control. We also do PAP smears and prenatal control. Our doctors also do minor surgery. A gynecologist comes once a month to perform gynecological procedures such as colposcopies, cryosurgery, etc. for women who need them.
- There is dental care one day a week.
- We have been donated the equipment and will soon be able to offer gastroscopies and colonoscopies
- In addition there are medical/evangelistic caravans that go out from the clinic to serve a community of Guaymí Indians in the southern part of the country. Teams have been visiting Alto Laguna regularly since 1998; and this community that previously had no believers now has good group of believers and a little church.

RENEUVOS.

➤ New Horizons.

1. The back-bone of this ministry is the Saturday program for the boys and girls ages 8-17. The kids are divided into two groups: 8-12 year olds, and 13-17 year olds – each with separate, age-appropriate programs. The busy day begins with Bible teaching applied in a practical way to the daily lives of the youth. There are also team-building activities. Then the kids are divided into groups and take part in different activities (of their choice). Options vary from semester to semester, but they include: things like soccer, skate-boarding, music classes, wood-working, English classes, basketball, and crafts.

2. In addition, on four afternoons, boys can come and participate in a variety of sports: skate-boarding, soccer, basket ball, American football, and Rugby. Always there is a devotional as part of the afternoon activities.

3. On Friday afternoons there is a Bible Club for school age children with the participation of approximately 30 kids. Activities include fun songs, Christian songs, memory verses, Bible lesson, crafts and games.

➤ Vocational program – with the following programs:

1. Sewing workshop
2. Computer classes
3. Carpentry workshop
4. Pastry and baking arts

➤ Program for Refugees -- With the crisis in Nicaragua, there has been an influx of Nicaraguan refugees. Many have settled in Carpio. In addition to helping them with food, clothing, bedding, dishes, etc., there is a program of crafts for women Tuesday through Thursday mornings. While they are busy, their children are cared for in the day care center. There is also a parenting class for the mothers.

➤ Camp. Each year the girls and boys who have participated faithfully in the programs of CFC – Carpio have the privilege of going to camp. This is the highlight of the year for the kids!! Each January, we have our annual camp, with approximately 130 participants – children and young people. Camp gives opportunities for many spiritual break-throughs. The RENEUVOS camps are especially significant because they build on all that has already been accomplished during the previous year. And after camp there is opportunity for follow-up in the on-going programs.

➤ Acuaponics project – Started in 2020 and enlarged in 2021, this project is raising fish (tilapia) and organic vegetables. The project provides better nutrition for some of the Carpio families and also serves as a model to be implemented in other places.

LAS GRADAS

- In 2014 a new outreach began with Bible Clubs for the children of the section of Carpio called Las Gradadas. Located right next to the river, the only access is via 120 steps, so no vehicles can reach the area. The families are among the poorest of the community, and many are dysfunctional; a good number of the children and young people who live in this area do not go to school. With the help of volunteer teams we constructed a small enclosed play area, and in December, 2016, we added a meeting room above the play area.
- Now there are Bible clubs for pre-schoolers and school-age children during the week and a program for teen-agers on Saturdays. In addition to games, singing, Bible lesson, crafts, and academic help, the kids also receive a nutritious meal each time they come.
- There have also been classes to teach illiterate mothers how to read.
- Last year 30 of the mothers went on an all-day retreat. Now there is monthly follow-up for these women, with lots of personal counseling and mentoring.
- Thanks to the help of a volunteer teacher, and the donation of a dozen sewing machines, there are now sewing classes for the women.
- A second piece of property was obtained down at LAS GRADAS and a counseling center has been constructed there

CENTRO RENOVACIÓN (RENEWAL CENTER) Unexpectedly, a large building at the far end of Carpio was donated to Christ for the City at the beginning of 2017

- We have done considerable work on repairing and remodeling the building.
- The congregation of one of the Carpio churches holds their services in our building on Sunday mornings.
- Another organizations uses the building on Saturdays – with Bible clubs for kids during the day and a program for youth at night
- A second group of Canas Felices (for the elderly) meets here every other month.
- Taking advantage of the strategic location, right across from the new Carpio school, we now have remedial classes for school age children three days a week, morning and afternoon. The children learn to read, improve their reading comprehension and learn basic math. In addition there is always a Bible lesson as part of every session.
- There are sewing classes all day on Wednesdays for two groups of women.

Looking over this rather extensive list of programs and activities, it quickly becomes apparent that a host of volunteers are needed to make it all happen. We can only humbly thank God for the incredible group of **volunteers** that He has brought to share in the ministries. They are committed and enthusiastic, and they serve tirelessly without any pay – just because they love the Lord and the kids.

If you have read this far..., you will notice that two major themes run through all that we do:

- ❖ The goal that underlies all that we do is that children, young people, and adults come to know Christ and that they become life-long disciples of His – growing to know Him better, becoming more like Him, and reaching out to others. In some way, shape, or form there is Biblical teaching in all that we do. This is something that we always work hard to maintain because we never want the outreach in Carpio to become just social services.
- ❖ All that we do is aimed at teaching. We want to help children, young people, and adults to keep on with their studies and get an education, and to get tools and skills that will enable them to break out of the cycle of poverty. We avoid hand-outs and programs of assistance that destroy people's dignity and create dependence. We want to enable the people to become what God created them to be: productive human beings who are able to support themselves through their own work.