

DEC/JAN/FEB 2019-2020
ELK GROVE, CA

SPECIAL ECUADOR EDITION

ABOUT: ECUADOR

*Learn about this special country,
its people, living
conditions and more!*

p. 12

RELEASING COMPASSION ON ECUADOR FOR CHRISTMAS

*The perfect time of year to pursue
this new vision.*

p. 14

HOW TO CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE

*Meet the Bakers and learn
about their experience.*

p. 18



Compass

..... AT

CHRISTMAS

YOUTH CHOIR PRODUCTION OF "LITTLE DRUMMER DUDE"

Saturday, Dec 7, 3:30 or 5:30pm
Auditorium

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS COFFEES

Dec 3, 5 & 7

ADVENTURE CREW FUNTASTIC

Friday, Dec 13, 5–8:30pm
Parents night out

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SERVICES

Sunday, Dec 15

- **AUDITORIUM**

All Services: 8, 9:30 and 11am

Presented by the Creekside Choir
and Orchestra

- **VENUE**

9am Venue Cafe opens

9:30am Venue Christmas service

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, Dec 22 | All services

High School, Junior High, and
Children 4 years–6th grade will be
joining their parents in main services.

Childcare is only available for 0–3 years

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Tuesday, Dec 24, 5 or 7pm

A family friendly service with a modern
take on familiar Christmas Carols

Children 4 years and up will be joining
their parents in main services.

Childcare is only available for 0–3 years.



vision

M A S

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, Dec 24, 11pm

Exploring the timelessness of Christmas

Childcare will not be available.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION SERVICES

Sunday, Dec 29 | All services

High School, Jr. High and Route 56 students
will be joining their parents in main services.

Children 4 years thru 4th grade will be
meeting together for a special event.



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Meet Kim Sturm our new Guest Service Coordinator at Creekside.

DOWNLOAD THE CREEKSIDE APP AND READ CREEKSIDE LIFE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

*Now available on all your favorite devices.
For more information, visit creeksideeg.com*

- ▶ **MISSION:** We exist to bring glory to God by turning all people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
- ▶ **PURPOSE:** Making Disciples—More Christians and better Christians.
- ▶ **DISCIPLE:** Someone who continuously learns to live and love like Jesus and leads others to do the same.

CREEKSIDE CALENDAR

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



LIFEGROUPS

- Sunday, Jan 5 | Atrium
Sign-ups Begin
- Sunday, Jan 26, 12:30pm | A1
New Leader Training
- Jan 26-Mar 22
Next Session



Session groups come together to discuss biblically-based topics, enjoy fellowship and pray for one another.
Melissa Yocum | Melissa@creeksideeg.com

NEXT STEPS

Developed for those seeking to move closer to Jesus.

Sign-up for one or more of Creekside's Next Steps and begin the pathway to becoming a disciple.

What is a disciple? It's simple... *a disciple is someone who continuously learns to live and love like Jesus and leads others to do the same.*

Did you know...? Next Step classes are changing in the new year! Check out the article on page 20.

For more details about Next Steps at Creekside contact Jennifer Sandlin at jennifer@creeksideeg.com

BAPTISM CLASS

Sunday, Jan 12, 12:45-2pm | D-5

This class will answer your questions about baptism and prepare you for this step of faith with Jesus.

Next Baptism opportunity:
Sunday, Jan 26.

Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com

MEMBERSHIP

Sunday, Feb 2, 11:15am | E-101

What is church membership at Creekside? What is our history? What do we believe? This class will answer these questions and more!

Melissa Yocum | melissa@creeksideeg.com

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Wednesdays, Feb 5-Apr 1, 6:15pm | A-1

Financial Peace University Classes are Dave Ramsey's curriculum and provides biblically based, common-sense education and empowerment which gives HOPE to everyone from the financially secure to the financially distressed. This is a 9-week course.

Go to <https://www.fpu.com/1099921> to register
Sharon Sorrentino | sharon@creeksideeg.com

CHILDREN

KIDSCARE FUNTASTIC

CHILDCARE FOR PARENT NIGHT OUT

Friday, Dec 13, 5:30-8:30pm

Creekside Campus

Registration ends Dec 8 or when all spots are filled.

Cost: \$12/child or \$30 max/family

Pre-registration required: creeksideeg.com/children

Debbie Johnson | debbie@creeksideeg.com

NO AWANA CLUB-CHRISTMAS BREAK

Dec 18-Jan 8

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL-4YRS-6TH GRADE

Sunday, Dec 22

Families are encouraged to worship together.

AWANA JUMP-START TRAINING

Wednesday, Jan 8, 6-8pm

Creekside Campus, Room TBD

Training for Awana volunteers.

Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

AWANA CLUBS RESUME

Sunday, Jan 12 | Trek & Journey

Wednesday, Jan 15 | Puggles - T&T

Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

PARENT ORIENTATION FOR

CHILD DEDICATION

Sunday, Jan 12, 11:15am | M-6

Orientation class for parents considering Child Dedication on January 19.

Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

5TH-6TH GRADE BLOWOUT-

GLOW OUT THE DARK

Friday, Jan 17, 6:30-8:30pm | E-105

Pre-Teen Social for 5th & 6th graders.

Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

5TH-6TH GRADE BLOWOUT-

ROARING 20's

Friday, Feb 21, 6:30-8:30pm | E-105

Pre-Teen Social for 5th & 6th graders.

Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com



YOUTH | JUNIOR HIGH

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays, 9:30am | E-108

A Christ-centered GROW experience, connecting students to God and each other.

Sundays, 11:15am | E-205

We will have a time of going through the Bible and eating pancakes.

Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

NO SERVICES-JUNIOR HIGH

December 11, 18 and 25

No LifeGroups

December 22 and 29

No Sunday Services

No AWANA

WINTER CAMP LATE REGISTRATION

BEGINS

Sunday, Dec 15

Check the Student Ministries page on our website for details

LIFEGROUPS RESUME

Wednesday, Jan 8

Themed games with small group discussion time.

Check website for locations and times

Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com



WINTER CAMP

Jan 31-Feb 2

A Junior High winter retreat. More info and registration on our website.

YOUTH | HIGH SCHOOL

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays, 9:30am | E-205

A Christ-centered GROW experience, connecting students to God and each other.

Sundays, 11:15am | E-205

We will have a time of going through the Bible and eating pancakes.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

NO SERVICES-HIGH SCHOOL

December 11, 18 and 25

No LifeGroups

December 22 and 29

No Sunday Services

No AWANA

LIFEGROUPS RESUME

Wednesday, Jan 8

Themed games with small group discussion time.

Check website for locations and times

Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com



WINTER CAMP

Jan 17-20

More info and registration on our website.

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULTS

NO SERVICES-COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT

December 26

No LifeGroups

CREEKSIDE CALENDAR

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



WOMEN

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 9:30-10:45am | M-2

Study the Bible with a loving, prayerful group of women. All ages are welcome. Led by Ruby Parsley.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

2nd Mondays, 7-9pm | E-203

A service group ministering to the needs of our local community and missionaries overseas by making quilts, rolling bandages, and more.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

2nd Mondays, 7-9pm | E-204

Knit and crochet shawls and pray for those who receive them. Completed

handmade shawls can also be donated at the church office.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

*WINTER BIBLE STUDY - MORNING BREAK

Tuesdays, Jan 14-Mar 31, 9-11:30am

Education Building

Grow in your relationship with God. Whether you've studied the Bible for years, or are just getting started. Study options and registration available online.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

*WINTER BIBLE STUDY - EVENING EDITION

Tuesdays, Jan 14-Mar 31, 6:30-9pm

Education Building

An evening option to grow deeper in relationship to God. Many ladies attend who work during the day. Study details and registration available online.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

DORCAS CIRCLE

1st Wednesdays, 9-11:30am | E-203

A service group ministering to the needs of our local community and missionaries overseas by making

quilts, rolling bandages, and more.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

*HEART2HEART MOMS

**Alternating Thursdays, starting Jan 9
9-11:30am | E-108**

For mothers of all ages and stages. Time together includes breakfast, special events and guest speakers.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

WOMEN ALONE FELLOWSHIP

Saturdays, monthly, noon-2pm | Atrium

For all ages, but mostly senior ladies who are widowed, divorced or single. Share a potluck lunch, meet new friends and enjoy inspiring speakers and music.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Thursday, Mar 5, 6:30pm | Venue

Save the date! Join us for fun and great insights with Christian comedienne and actress Kerri Pomarolli. Watch for registration details in January.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com



MEN

PRAYER GROUP / BIBLE STUDY

Sundays | M-2

Prayer, 7:30-8am | Bible Study: 8-9:15am

An awesome, biblically sound Bible study of Matthew. The first 30 minutes is spent praying for our families and other concerns.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 6-7am | A-1

A perfect morning start, seeking God first! Led by Chris Losey.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

UNION GOSPEL MISSION OUTREACH

1st Fridays, 7:15-8:45pm

Union Gospel Mission, Sacramento

Join us as we serve the homeless by conducting Chapel.

Tony Bell | tony@creeksideeg.com

MEN'S HUDDLE

2nd Saturdays, 8-9:45am | Venue

For guys in all stages of life. Join us for breakfast, worship and inspiring speakers. Bring a friend along! \$7 donation for breakfast.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

SENIOR ADULTS 55+

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 9:30-10:30am | A-1

A warm and friendly crowd will be pleased to welcome you to this on-going, in-depth Bible study. Led by Mike Jones.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 10-11am | E-101/102

If you are a Bible student, or want to be....this is the place! Join us for teaching directly from the Bible by a seasoned leader, George Burris.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

SUPPORT

SCALES

2nd Fridays, 7-9pm | E-103

A monthly confidential support group for families and friends impacted by a loved one with mental illness.

Greg & Marti | westee4@sbcglobal.net

MARRIAGE

THE ULTIMATE MARRIAGE WEEKEND

Friday-Sunday, Aug 7-9

Zephyr Point Conference Center, Lake Tahoe

Refresh marriages, enjoy getting to know other Christian couples and learn from an inspiring speaker.

Details and registration available online in January.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

WORSHIP

EASTER CHOIR SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Feb 4, 6:30pm | A-1

Jr. High and older are welcome to come and sing for this Easter season.

Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com

SPRING ORCHESTRA KICK-OFF

Sunday, Jan 12, 2:30pm | Auditorium

If you would like to play in the spring/ Easter season we would love to see you at our first rehearsal.

Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com

WORSHIP & ARTS INFORMATION MEETING

Sunday, Jan 19, 12:45pm | B-4

An exciting time for musicians and technicians to learn about Worship Arts Ministry. If you are a vocalist, instrumentalist or interested in being part of our technical team, please join us.

Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com

MISSION

CREEKSIDEEG.COM/MISSIONS

Karen Stoneburner | karen.s@creeksideeg.com

WINTER SANCTUARY VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Sunday, Dec 1, 12:45-2pm | E-101

Learn how Creekside volunteers can help provide a safe and hospitable place for our homeless guests.

Brenda O'Donnell | brendaodonnell916@gmail.com

LETTER WRITING WORKSHOP FOR

COMPASSION CHILD SPONSORS

Sunday, Dec 8, 12:45pm | E-101

Get some tips, resources and inspiration to help you write your first letter and subsequent letters as you develop a precious relationship with your sponsored child(ren) and their families.

Tom & Maria Bramlett | tcbramlett@yahoo.com

WINTER SANCTUARY

Dec 8-21

This is our 7th year of partnering with HART to provide safe, warm and dry overnight accommodations, a hot meal and friendly companionship to the homeless in Elk Grove. Many ways for you, your family or your LifeGroup to participate.

Brenda O'Donnell | brendaodonnell916@gmail.com

COMPASSION SPONSOR TRIP INFORMATION MEETING

Sunday, Dec 15, 12:45pm | A-1

Visit your sponsored child(ren). Creekside is offering three trips in 2020. What better way to get to know and show love to your sponsored child than to meet him/her face to face!

Tom & Maria Bramlett | tcbramlett@yahoo.com

LOVE INC CHURCH OF THE WEEK

February 17-22

3-Shifts: 10am-2pm, 2-6pm, 6-9pm

6750 Florin-Perkins Rd, Sacramento

Partnering with Love INC for one week to bring hope and tangible help to needy families. Morning, afternoon and evening shifts.

Sign-up at <https://loveinc.volunteer.com>

Jeff Johnson | jeffjohnson@loveinc.us

MISSION TRIP LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Friday night and all day Saturday:

Friday, Feb 21, 7-9:30pm | E-101/102

Saturday, Feb 22, 9am-5:30pm | E-101/102

Engaging, interactive workshop to learn the best practices for successful and meaningful mission trips. Open to anyone ages 16 and up. Free.

John/Kathy Imboden | kathy@theimbodens.com

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

CHURCH SERVICES

- 8am | Classic
- 9:30am | Contemporary
- 9am | Venue doors open
- 9:30am | Venue
- 11:15am | Contemporary

NURSERY

- 8, 9:30 & 11:15am
- Newborn to 4 yrs

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 9:30 & 11:15am
- Check-in: Rm. M-9 or South Wing/Main Bldg

SPECIAL NEEDS FOR KIDS

- 9:30am | Rm. B-4

PRETEEN MINISTRY 56'ers

- 9:30 & 11:15am | Rm.E-201

JUNIOR HIGH

- 9:30am | Rm. E-108
- 11:15am | Rm. E-205
- (combined with High School)

HIGH SCHOOL

- 9:30 & 11:15am | Rm.E-205

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 9:30am | Rm. A-1



WELCOME *to* CREEKSIDE LIFE

This is going to be the best Christmas season ever at Creekside! We are going to pour out practical compassion for the people of Ecuador. We're going to follow our God's lead in making this holiday season (which celebrates the coming of the Savior) about loving and giving. Even before Thanksgiving—before the avalanche of commercialism beginning with Black Friday or Cyber Monday shopping—we're going to follow God's heart into a needy world. We're going to change a nation and be changed by God in the process!

Imagine this. Today, a child in Ecuador lives with her family in abject poverty, surviving on less than \$1 a day. Her father is gone for months simply looking to work. She rarely gets enough to eat, barely surviving with her siblings in a tiny home built with bamboo sticks, no electricity or running water. The rainy season often brings flooding into her home. She is subject to limited education, neglect, disease, and abuse. And, the worst part—it's a hopeless, never-ending cycle. **UNLESS.**

Unless God moves the heart of someone to sponsor this child for \$38 a month.

This Christmas Creekside Christian Church has found a way to...

- Break the vicious cycle of poverty for hundreds of children
- Bring Christian hope to otherwise hopeless neighborhoods
- Establish community centers, which offer love, food, educational assistance, and medical help
- Bring the compassion of God into the lives of thousands of people in tangible ways
- Lead hundreds of people to faith in Jesus Christ
- Partner with believers in Ecuador in planting three churches
- Change the lives of countless people forever

This Christmas season, Creekside will partner with *Compassion International* — which helps release children from poverty in Jesus' name, and *Stadia Church-Planting* — which helps Ecuadorian believers establish new churches and community impact centers.

Our goal: Sponsoring at least 450 children for \$38 a month, starting three new churches/compassion centers and changing the trajectory of hundreds of lives in Jesus' name.

We want to recapture the true meaning of Christmas by giving... bringing light into darkness... offering a transfusion of love and hope to others... releasing resources for the Great Commission of Christ. **CL**



Scott Hansen, Executive Pastor

CREEKSIDE LIFE

creeksideeg.com/creekside-life

Bill Maxon, *Executive Pastor—Pastoral Oversight*

Joel Neufeld, *Communications Director*

Kim Abercrombie, *Communications Team*

DeAnna Gallardo, *Communications Assistant, Lead Photographer*

Kathy Herbold, *Graphic Design*

EDITORIAL

Dawn Maxon, *Lead Copy Editor*

ON-STAFF CONTRIBUTING COPYWRITERS:

Scott Hansen, *Senior Pastor*

Joel Neufeld, *Worship Pastor & Communications Director*

Karen Stoneburner, *Missions Pastor*

CONTRIBUTING COPYWRITERS

Matt & Hally Baker

PULSE



THE VENUE worship service started January 28, 2018. This January the Venue will officially be one year old. If you haven't checked out our Venue service at 9:30am in the North building you are missing out. Doors open at 9am for amazing coffee and snacks. Check out the back cover for more quotes about the Venue.

◀ BRI at the Venue.



▲ GIA AND DAN BREMERMAN

We love being able to connect and have community with others in a smaller environment.

◀ ADRIANA GWYN

I like the Venue and its smaller service where I can see faces of people I know and who know me. I feel more connected at church through the Venue and I love that it's child friendly.



ON SUNDAY, October 13, Pastor Scott sensed God was asking him to change his message and present the *door of salvation* Jesus offers to us. We literally put a door on the floor in both the Auditorium and the Venue. Pastor Scott and Pastor Joel (in the Venue) gave clear calls to faith and asked people to respond.

56 people walked through the door and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Entire families walked through the door together. Praise God!

Send us your story, testimony or feedback.



CreeksideEG



CreeksideCCeg



creeksidelife@creeksideeg.com



2019 Harvest Festival



2019 Harvest Festival



2019 Harvest Festival

“ Thanks for a fantastic night! Every year gets even better! Love our church! ”

Jan McMillin | via Facebook

“ Best October party in town. ”

Tina Baranick-Lopez | via Facebook



2019 Harvest Festival



PULSE

2019 Harvest Festival

“ One epic event at the Harvest Festival! God is sooo good! ”

Deniz Garrett | via Facebook



2019 Harvest Festival



2019 Harvest Festival



2019 Harvest Festival

“ Great night at Creekside Christian Church harvest festival what a great night can't wait till next year. ”

Matthew Ernster | via Facebook



DeANNA GALLARDO

Creekside Communications Assistant

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

As far back as I can remember I have always wanted to be a Mommy. I love being a Mom!

PROUDEST MOMENT?

I am most proud of the moments that I stepped out in faith and said YES to God. Sometimes with excitement, sometimes scared, each time life-changing and rewarding.

HOBBIES?

Photography and reading.

IF YOU COULD GET COFFEE WITH ANYONE LIVING OR DEAD...

My Gramps, he passed away two years ago and I miss him every day.

WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE DAY?

My ultimate day would be waking up to an ocean view. Spending the day with my family making sand castles, chasing waves, looking for shells and definitely having a little time to read a book.

For more about Creekside pastors and staff, visit: www.creeksideeg.com/staff/

The Creekside Insider

What is your favorite



1. The SMITH FAMILY

“Our family’s favorite Christmas tradition is ice skating. We’ve been to a few different rinks in the area. Usually, Dad tries to skate really fast, but can’t stop unless he runs into the wall. Mom skates gracefully. Ilia clings to the side, and Baron takes risks, skates fast, but falls a lot. We all enjoy drinking hot cocoa and taking our skates off at the end of the day.

Ice skating is the best!”



2. The WAGEMANN FAMILY

“Our favorite Christmas tradition is going it to look at lights. It started in 2011 when we were dating. We got married in 2015, and the tradition grew to add family and friends. We drive to different neighborhoods and find the houses with the biggest light displays. We spend hours driving around trying to find new houses we can add to next year’s list!

Once baby Paige came along in 2018 our tradition has even more meaning, she was so excited! This year will be especially memorable because Paige will better understand the true meaning of Christmas and know that the true light of Christmas is Jesus.”

family Christmas activity?



3. The NEUFELD FAMILY

“We love doing things together as a family and at Christmas there are plenty of choices to do just that.

One of our favorite is the *Train to the North Pole* at Hagan Park in Rancho Cordova. You get to ride a real steam engine. Okay so it is scaled down but still it is a blast. The train ride goes through the park and along the American River. It drops you off at the North Pole where there are cookies and hot chocolate waiting for you. Then miraculously the train brings you back to home.”



4. The ELMORE FAMILY

“Everyone loves a white Christmas. Living in Elk Grove we are blessed to be so close to the snow without ever needing to shovel our sidewalks and driveways.

Every year we try to go to the snow as a family. Sledding has been the main event but this past year we gave cross county skiing a try and we all loved it! It's our newest addition to our family tradition.”



5. The GALLARDO FAMILY

“It's really hard to narrow it down to just one favorite activity... being together is at the top of our list.

Our annual Gingerbread House making competition with our extended family is something we all agree is a favorite, lots of trash talk and sibling rivalry is what Christmas is all about right?

We look forward to Christmas dinners with our neighbors, spending time connecting with family, Christmas Eve services at church, reflecting as a family on the Christmas story and setting out a Coca-Cola for Santa.”

SIZE

**SMALLEST COUNTRY
IN SOUTH AMERICA**

3/4 Size of California

POPULATION

**17.1
MILLION**

California
has a
population
of
39.6 million

CURRENCY

US DOLLAR

Yes!
People use
American
money in
Ecuador

RELIGION

**74% ROMAN
CATHOLIC
10%
EVANGELICAL
8% ATHEIST
8% OTHER**

LANGUAGE

SPANISH
Plus at least
12 indigenous
languages

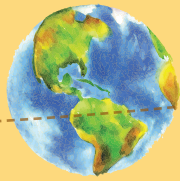
GEOGRAPHY

**4 GEOGRAPHIC
REGIONS**

Galapagos
Islands
Western Coastal
Central Mountain
Eastern
Amazonian

ABOUT:
Ecuador

FUN FACTS



HOW ECUADOR GOT ITS NAME

Ecuador is the only country that is named after a geological feature.

The nation straddles the equator and "Ecuador" is Spanish for "equator."



PANAMA HAT

The iconic Panama hat is actually from Ecuador.

Panama hats are woven from toquilla palm plants. In the 18th century these straw brimmed hats were shipped to Panama on the way to the United States. The label on the boxes often had the shipping point for the products, which was Panama, and the rest is history.

President Teddy Roosevelt often wore a Panama hat.

BIODIVERSITY

Ecuador has the highest level of biodiversity per square kilometer/mile of any nation.

Some 8% of amphibian species, 5% of reptile species, 8% of mammals, and 16% of bird species are found right here in the small country of Ecuador, which makes up only .02% of the world's land surface.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

In Ecuador the sun rises at 6am and sets at 6pm year round.

BANANAS

Ecuador ranks as the top exporter of bananas in the entire world.

TREES AND MALARIA

The chinchona, Ecuador's national tree, is known for producing quinine—one of the first drugs to be used in the treatment of malaria.

HISTORY

INDIGENOUS INDIAN TRIBES

Ecuador's original population, often at war with one another.

1432 AD—INCAN EMPIRE

Conquered and ruled the land.

1532 AD—SPANISH INVASION

Spanish conqueror Francisco Pizarro invaded Ecuador.

1534 AD—SPANISH COLONIZATION

Ecuador became a colony of Spain and established its center of government in Quito—the site of an Incan city originally inhabited by the Quito people.

1822 AD—FREEDOM FROM SPAIN

Many Spanish colonies in South America united and revolted against Spanish colonialism, won their freedom and became a territory called Gran Colombia—today's Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Venezuela and areas of Peru, Brazil and Guyana.

1830 AD—INDEPENDENCE

Ecuador won independence from Gran Colombia and formed the nation called the Republic of Ecuador.

INFO

For more information about the country, the people and the living conditions in Ecuador, go to the following links:

- <https://www.compassion.com/about/where/ecuador-facts.htm>
- <https://www.compassion.com/ecuador/ecuador-beaches.htm>
- <https://www.compassion.com/ecuador/andes.htm>
- <https://www.compassion.com/ecuador/rainforest.htm>

ETHNICITY

72% MESTIZO

Spanish-speaking people of mixed Indian and European descent.

14% AMERINDIAN

Indian-language speaking populations referred to as indigenous peoples or Amerindians.

POVERTY

60% NEAR POVERTY LINE

23% POVERTY LINE

This group lives on less than \$5.50/day.

9% EXTREME POVERTY

This 9% lives on less than \$2/day.

CHILD LABOR

One of the main sources of income for many families, trapping children in a vicious cycle of poverty. Without education few can break out of poverty.

RELEASING COMPASSION ON *Ecuador* FOR CHRISTMAS

Creekside has a great, long-standing reputation when it comes to engaging in Great Commission activity around the world. But as the world of missions has radically changed in recent years, our Missions Task Force has been searching for a global outreach opportunity that would inject a lot of new Great Commission passion and energy into the bloodstream of our entire church family.

We found that opportunity through a strategic partnership with Compassion International, Stadia Church-Planting and the nation of Ecuador! ***And we believe Christmas is the perfect time of year to pursue this new vision.***



Pastor Scott in Ecuador with his sponsored child.



I (Pastor Scott) have now taken two trips to Ecuador to check out this opportunity first hand. It seemed too good to be true. It's a mission strategy that breaks the vicious cycle of poverty for countless people, establishes community impact centers, sponsors children to bring them to hope for a better future, leads hundreds of people to faith in Jesus Christ and partners with Ecuadorian national Christians to plant three vibrant churches. That's amazing! So what's the plan of attack?

First, we decided to pre-empt this Christmas season—with all of its emphasis on materialism—to focus on the true significance of the Incarnation of the Son of God. Because of God's great compassion for us, He gave (JOHN 3:16). And that gift was a child who would grow up to bring hope, forgiveness, and salvation. The themes of Christmas in Scripture include light, love, hope, and generous giving.

So here is how we plan to address these themes during the 2019 Christmas season.

SPONSOR A *Child* FOR CHRISTMAS



On two Sundays...November 24 and December 1... we plan to partner with *Compassion International* in sponsoring at least 450 Ecuadorian children. For \$38 a month you and I can actually change the trajectory of a child's life! \$38 doesn't buy much in America. But in Ecuador, it can purchase:

- Access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Loving adult guidance
- Nutritional food
- Educational assistance
- Medical check-ups and emergency help
- Vocational training, and
- Hope!

Children who have no hope of breaking out of generational poverty can actually dare to have hope for a better future.

Michelle and I not only met the little girl (Aitana) who we are now sponsoring, but we also met many young people who were *Compassion*-sponsored kids in the past and have now grown up to find great career paths and become leaders in local churches. *Compassion International* has been working in Ecuador for 45 years and their sponsorships actually make a huge difference! There is solid data to back this claim.



Pastor Scott and Michelle in Ecuador.



Here's where our Christmas strategy gets even more enticing...

BUILD A Church FOR CHRISTMAS



In 2020, Creekside Christian Church is going to partner with believers in Ecuador in planting three new churches in very needy areas. Our 2020 VISION includes birthing three vibrant Christian communities! And the good news is that we have already funded two of these church-plants! Because of your past generosity, Creekside has exceeded our annual budget several years running. So we allocated a big chunk of our excess finances to missionary outreach in Ecuador. Building a community impact center/church facility costs \$87,000 in Ecuador. We have already paid for two such church-plant facilities, but we still need to fund the last church-plant on December 8.

About 10 years ago, Compassion joined forces with *Stadia Church-Planting* so that sponsored children

could be continually connected with healthy expressions of the body of Christ. When I witnessed the genius and power of such church facilities, I was convinced! When you sponsor children in the name of Jesus, you get grateful families that want to be a part of such communities. And each church plant begins with the sponsoring of 150 poor children in the neighborhood. Ecuadorian churches purchase the land and pay the on-going pastoral expenses... we simply collaborate by building the multi-purpose church facility.

So on Sunday, December 8, we plan to raise the final \$87,000 so we can assist in church-plant #3. It has been years since Creekside has planted a church. Our goal in 2020 is to plant three South American churches!

TAKE A *Trip* FOR CHRISTMAS



By the time you experience the amazing outpouring of compassion through the sponsoring of hundreds of beautiful kids in Ecuador (including the kid you sponsor!) you may just want to visit Ecuador and meet the child in person. It's one thing to sponsor a poor child in a nation far away. It's entirely another thing to meet that child! The Great Commission of Jesus Christ becomes very real through such an encounter!

When Michelle and I finally walked into the humble home where our sponsored child (Aitana) lives, we could hardly talk. She, together with her two sisters, is being raised by a loving grandmother. This lady sells coconuts for a living and made great sacrifices to have a very small, cinder-block home constructed. Dirt floor, no electricity or running water... POOR! Little Aitana hugged Michelle and took me by the hand to show me around her home. We took her family some gifts, shared some stories, shed tears and even prayed together. Aitana is now a part of our extended family!

So Creekside has organized two short-term mission trips to

Ecuador in 2020... one during Easter break and the other in July. On Sunday, December 15, we are going to ask those of you who chose to sponsor a child—or perhaps more than one child!—to sign up for a trip to Ecuador. If you have kids of your own, you may want to consider taking them along! WARNING: These trips will change you forever! The Great Commission of Jesus Christ will come alive in your heart!

Creekside is about to experience our greatest Christmas season ever! **CL**



This Ecuador-Special Edition article is written by Scott Hansen, Senior Pastor at Creekside. Scott and his wife Michelle are sponsors of an Ecuadorian child.

Hi, we are The Bakers!

"A COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL Sunday Service" changed our lives forever. We learned about what *Compassion* does all over the world, and we knew that this was something we wanted to do. We wanted to invest in people!

In September 2013, God placed two children on our hearts: a boy, Darwin, and a girl, Nayesca. Our son, Ethan, was very excited, and we knew that this would teach him about compassion for others, even when we did not know the children personally. Throughout the sponsorship, we have all realized how blessed we are here in America, and Ethan has happily become like a big brother to them.

It's been six years now and we have seen Darwin and Nayesca continue to grow physically and spiritually. We have been able to communicate with our sponsored children mostly through letter writing. We pray for each other, give them gifts, and photos which have helped us learn more about them and them about us.

One of the best experiences, though, happened as we traveled to Ecuador on two occasions to visit them and to bond with their families. We took school supplies, clothing, gifts, and family gifts like Bibles. Through *Compassion*, we were able to help with building the church and the classrooms they would attend where they would learn about God!

Compassion and the Fun Center changes children, spiritually and emotionally. They help with food and water, medical care, hygiene, a safe environment for play, resources to stay in school, teaching about the importance of their education and future.

One of the highlights of our trip was when we went to the home visit and one of the children said, "God Parents, let me show you all your letters." The family thanked us for our donation that allowed them to make repairs to their home after the earthquake. *Compassion* told us that during a disaster, like an earthquake or a flood, the first thing they grab are the letters from their sponsors.

We want to encourage you to sponsor a child through *Compassion*. For only \$38 dollars a month, you can change a life. **CL**



*This Feature article is written by Matt and Haley Baker
For more information on Compassion and Stadia
organizations, see our article on page 15.*



We are partnering together with two amazing organizations to make a difference for the Glory of God in Ecuador. We want you to get to know Compassion and Stadia so together we can see how great it is when groups come together to make a difference in the world.



Compassion International is a Christian child development organization dedicated to releasing children from poverty. They speak out for children in poverty—informing, motivating and equipping others to become advocates for children.

Compassion is committed to Jesus Christ in all that they do.

"Jesus is the core of our ministry and His life and teachings shape our programs, reflect the spiritual commitments of our staff, and guide how we love people, respect communities and cooperate with nations."

Their work is primarily done through child sponsorship. Money from child sponsorship goes to help children and communities grow out of spiritual and financial poverty.

Through a holistic approach to child development, they carefully blend physical, social, economic and spiritual care together... in Jesus' name.

They do all of this work through partnerships with thousands of local churches in 25 countries around the world.

Compassion is church-based. Local churches are best suited to address the needs of the children in their communities because the churches are already located and involved in the communities.

Find out more at compassion.com



With Compassion's heart to work directly with the local church in impoverished countries, a partnership with Stadia was and is a perfect match.

Stadia's mission is to plant churches that intentionally care for children—and they won't stop until every child has a church!

So in areas where there is no church to partner with, Stadia comes in and plants a church while Compassion helps bring sponsorship to the kids in the community.

God's Story. Our Role.

Stadia began in the fall of 2003 with a vision of a city 12,000 stadia long and filled with

people from every nation praising God, REVELATION 21:6. Since then, Stadia and our partners have planted over 320 U.S. churches and more than 400 global churches and have mobilized sponsorship of over 40,000 children in impoverished communities. Stadia exists to make the vision of a "world where every child has a church" a reality by bringing people and churches together to plant thriving churches that transform the lives of children, now and for eternity.

Children are close to the heart of God, so they are close to the heart of Stadia. Since the majority of those who make a decision to follow Jesus do so before the age of 18, it is vital that our churches reach the hearts of our children.

Find out more at StadiaChurchPlanting.org



Next Steps

AT CREEKSIDE, we are all about helping you continuously learn to live and love like Jesus and lead others to do the same. We will come alongside as you journey on our *Next Steps* of Connect, Grow, Serve, and Reach.

In February 2020, we are excited to start a two-month pilot program transforming *Next Steps* into weekly sessions over four consecutive Sundays starting with Connect on the first Sunday of the month. We invite you to join in at any time.

When you complete all four sessions of *Next Steps*, you will also have the opportunity to become a member of Creekside.



WEEK 1 - CONNECT February 2 or March 1

Connect to God and connect to the local church.

Learn about Creekside's history, articles of faith and our leaders. Find out what Creekside ministries match your needs and interests.



WEEK 2 - GROW February 9 or March 8

Grow in relationship with God and in relationship with each other.

Find out how you can get the most out of reading your Bible and spending time in prayer. Learn about sermon-based LifeGroups, which help us grow in relationship with God and others as we develop Christ-centered relationships and "live life together."



WEEK 3 - SERVE February 16 or March 15

Serve at Creekside by recognizing and utilizing your God-given hardwiring to effectively and joyfully partner with us in ministry.

Begin to discover your SHAPE—Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experiences.



WEEK 4 - REACH February 23 or March 22

Reach those far from Christ, inviting them to know and follow Him, both locally and globally.

Get a taste of how to share your salvation story and spread the Gospel with friends, neighbors or anyone within your circle of influence.

KIM STURM

PROFILE

IN OUR LAST EDITION of Creekside Life magazine you met Brianne Moates our guest services coordinator. Soon after the magazine was released Brianne had an amazing chance to continue her education and she stepped down from her role. Literally the next day we met Kim Sturm.


Kim was the guest services coordinator at Rolling Hills church in El Dorado Hills and had recently moved to Elk Grove. She wasn't enjoying the travel time and thought, "wouldn't it be great if I could work at Creekside!" God was definitely at work in this transition.

Kim and her husband Michael have two boys, Sean—7 and Conner—5, who are amazingly energetic. She adores her family and loves the fact that she can help by volunteering in her boys' classrooms. They have a wonderful dog named Raider—and NO they are not Raiders fans what-so-ever. They also have a pet Tortoise named Dozer that will probably outlive Kim and get to be about 500 pounds.

Gardening is her go-to place! Kim especially loves Succulents. She says, "it is so fun to watch them multiply, and then I make gifts with the plants from our own garden. I could be out in the garden or at Green Acres every day and I would totally be okay with that."

She also loves to walk her dog and exercise in general. Her routine is to get up—or try to get up—a couple hours before everyone else, read a devotional and spend time with God, then work out; "I love yoga, pilates and my Total Gym!"

Saturdays are family days, so they try to make it a fun family Saturday if there are no sports that day. They are really hoping for Tahoe snow soon!

She loves what she does here at Creekside. She said, "I love that I can help new/unchurched families feel welcome and safe. I love that I can help contribute to them finding a home in Creekside and building their faith. I don't know their story but I want them to keep coming back to tell it!" 



This issue's PROFILE is written by Joel Neufeld who is Communications Director at Creekside.

For more about Creekside pastors and staff, visit www.creeksideeg.com/staff/



FAMILY

Husband, 2 sons,
a dog and a tortoise

ROLE AT CREEKSIDE

Guest Services
Coordinator

BACKSTORY

Loves gardening,
succulents, exercise,
devotional time
and yoga!

the VENUE

faith amplified



scan with your cell
camera for a video

JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 9:30
DOORS OPEN AT 9AM

JOY



“ I love the Venue because it is cozy and I love the music. ”

“ I like the relaxing atmosphere of the Venue. You don't see the people's clothes, you see people for who they are here. ”

ANTHONY



CHRIS



“ I love the aroma of coffee as I am worshipping. ”

Find out more #thevenueatcreekside on Instagram + Facebook



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SUNDAY SERVICES:

Auditorium: 8, 9:30 & 11am | Venue: 9:30am