

# today

2013 EDITION

IN COVENANT WORLD MISSION

## Let's Be Friends

*JULIO ISAZA and his wife Katie, serve as Covenant missionaries in the areas of leadership development and church planting in Colombia.*

One of my favorite prayers in the Bible is the one Jesus taught his disciples to pray to the Father. My favorite part is when he says "...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." (Matthew 6:10). This prayer speaks to me, because I believe Jesus is telling us that he wants what is found in heaven to be lived out on earth. Jesus wants his kingdom, which is filled with justice, peace, and joy, to be a reality on earth as well. I am privileged to serve in Colombia, where I see the Church reflecting his kingdom through what they are doing in their communities.

Recently, I had the opportunity to travel alongside other missionaries to the northern coast of Colombia to visit pastors, churches, and social ministries. We visited churches in big cities, small towns, and the countryside. The goal of this trip was to listen to the pastors and leaders of a number of congregations and to encourage them in their work.



Julio and Katie Isaza with their two children.

We spent time with the pastors talking about ways we could work together to plant new churches in new places. They want to demonstrate God's love and reflect his kingdom in visible and tangible ways. Their churches not only want to preach the gospel through words, but to share God's love through ministries of compassion, mercy, and justice.

One example of this love in action is through a soccer ministry called "Seamos Parces." This work is being carried out by the Covenant churches in Barranquilla and in several other locations in Colombia. "Parces" is a very popular slang word used among the children and youth of Colombia which means "close friends." This phrase literally means, "let's be close friends."

*Global mission. Local vision.*

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Parces is also an acronym for the values that it promotes:

- P—Paz (peace)
- A—Amor (love)
- R—Recreación (recreation)
- C—Calidad de vida (quality of life)
- E—Estilo de vida (lifestyle)
- S—Sueños (dreams)

Seamos Parces is making a difference in many lives. This ministry is reaching out to at-risk youth and children living in neighborhoods often plagued with violence, gangs, poverty, and drugs. The children come together once a week for soccer practice. Coaches teach them how to play this popular sport, but also introduce them to Jesus Christ and Christian values.

Many young lives have been transformed. Once at risk for being recruited into gangs, these children and youth are



"Seamos Parces" participants in Barranquilla.

now being drawn to Christ. Many young people who would never have considered entering a church, are now being reached and becoming disciples of Christ.

God is at work in Colombia. Praise God for the many ministries that allow the Colombian people to come in contact with the living God. Praise God for our brothers and sisters that are seeking to reflect the kingdom of God in their communities.

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## Did you know?

The are 120 Covenant missionaries serving in a variety of ministries, including evangelism and outreach, church planting, Christian formation and discipleship, leadership development, community development, mission team facilitation, education, health ministries, business as mission, ministries of compassion, stopping human trafficking, youth and family ministries, as well as other areas of ministry.

Covenant missionaries serve in 21 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

The Covenant has international partnerships in 16 additional countries.

There are many opportunities for you to engage in mission, including serving as a Covenant missionary, going on a mission or vision trip, and partnering with missionaries through prayer and financial support.

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**Please consider how you might engage in international mission.**

Web: [CovChurch.org/mission](http://CovChurch.org/mission)  
Email: [world.mission@covchurch.org](mailto:world.mission@covchurch.org)  
Phone: (773) 784-3000

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A ministry of  The Evangelical Covenant Church

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