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# Cristo Vive International

## Greetings to you our dear friends

Greetings from South Texas! And by south, I mean SOUTH. My family and I are located about 5 miles north of the Rio Grande River on the border of Mexico. I'm writing to you from just 1 of the Cristo Vive International Camp locations here in the USA. Besides the Rio Grande Valley, we also have camps in Conroe, TX as well as Alaska, Idaho and Minnesota. CVI has ongoing ministries in Ecuador, South America and as you are reading this, CVI is in PERU! Praise God for the work He is doing through CVI and we praise God for all of you that PRAY for us and even DONATE financially to this ministry. Thank you for being a part of this! Lives are being impacted, and I am one of them!

## CVI's Impact on My Life

My first encounter with CVI was a God encounter. Jordana was speaking at a chapel service at my high school back in 2001. I came in late to the service and only saw a glimpse of a promotional video they were showing to recruit for an upcoming Ecuador trip. One glimpse was all that God needed to plant a seed in my heart for this ministry. I signed up for Ecuador 2001 as a 15-year-old and have been a part of CVI ever since! I thank Jesus that I have had the opportunity to travel to Kenya, Ecuador, Mongolia, Alaska, Idaho, Minnesota and Texas for these beautiful camps over the last 18 years of my life. I have had the privilege of getting to know the Engebretsen family as if they were my own family and have also been

able to play many different roles in this ministry. Why do I tell you all this information? Because, I want YOU to know that this ministry has inspired young people to also live a life of ministry, to move to foreign countries, to study Special Education in college, to become therapists, teachers, ministry leaders, missionaries, etc. after their time serving with Cristo Vive International. Your commitment to supporting this ministry is not only reaching children with special needs and their families, but it is also inspiring teens, young adults and older adults to give of themselves and live a 'life on mission' with Jesus Christ.

At the age of 15, I spent a month in Quito, Ecuador serving in a CVI camp. Through our time serving

the children of Ecuador and growing as a ministry team, we were challenged in our personal time with the Lord. Oh, if only I could return to that tranquil time of reading my Bible next to a pond with Ecuadorian mountains in the background and perfect 75-degree weather each day. Peaceful times in the presence of the Lord. He met us there in that campground away from distractions of normal life back in the USA. I knew the Lord most of my life. I grew up knowing Jesus and had a growing relationship with Him since I was a child, but this time serving in ministry gripped my heart. I KNEW that ministry was LIFE and Jesus was calling me to serve Him no matter where or how. At 15, Christ called me to dedicate my life to His Ministry and live a 'life on mission'.

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June 2018

[www.cristovive.net](http://www.cristovive.net)

**Founders:**  
Gene and Jordana  
Engebretsen

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**Where does Cristo Vive International operate?**

Conroe, TX

Harpster, ID

Minnesota-July 2018

RGV, TX

Soldotna, AK

And Ecuador

Peru-June 2018

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## Life on Mission

I've heard this phrase many times. I've used this phrase many times. And I have been challenged as of lately in my understanding of what this phrase means from a Biblical perspective. What does a 'life on mission' look like? Is my 'life on mission' with what God is doing on this earth?

Since I am a 'goal' oriented person, I have recently had to re-look at my 'goals'. What am I living for each day? What am I working towards each day, each week and each year?

Many 'things' have complicated the CLEAR calling that Christ has laid out for us in Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) 19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."  
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## Life on Mission

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And we can also see some clear direction as we read this passage:

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

So, from just these two verses I can see that I'm supposed to:

1. Go (wherever that might be)
2. Make Disciples, Baptizing them and teaching them. (that's pretty clear)
3. Offer my body as a living sacrifice. (my body and my life dedicated to serve Him)

4. Be transformed. (by God: His spirit, His presence, His Word)

Well, let me be honest and say these are easier said than done right? One area that I have been convicted of lately is sacrificing my private time (actually that's a joke because I have 4 kids) to spend time discipling younger women. But as I am obedient in spending time to do this, I see the fruit and am encouraged to continue. Even though, most days I would prefer to go home and take a nap! I pray for God's grace in my life to improve in this area. What about you? Which of these 4 areas listed above do you need God's mercy and grace to improve?

I will leave you with this quote from the book *Radical*, a book that has challenged me to re-think my goals:

"We will not wish we had made more money, acquired more stuff, lived more comfortably, taken more vacations, watched more television, pursued greater retirement, or been more successful in the eyes of this world. Instead, we will wish we had given more of ourselves to living for the day when every nation, tribe, people, and language will bow around the throne and sing the praises of the Savior who delights in radical obedience and the God who deserves eternal worship."

— David Platt, (*Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*)

What can you do today that will realign your life to be 'on mission' with God and focused on reaching the world for His Name?

## Prayer Requests

PERU (JUNE): Please pray for the team that is in Peru as you are reading this letter. Pray for local churches, ministries and individuals to grab a hold of the vision and mission of CVI. The success of our ministry is accomplished when 'local' individuals see the need and devote effort to making our camps a reality. Not only do we want to see a 'camp' ministry grow in Peru, but ongoing care, discipleship and events for these young people with special needs is ideal. Pray for safety, energy, and growth for our team and all that are involved. Pray for the children and their families that will be attending the camp, that many would come to know Jesus Christ.

MINNESOTA (JULY): Pray for our upcoming camp in Minnesota, pray for our leadership and volunteers. Pray for a deep connection with the campers and their families. Pray for hearts to receive the message of the Gospel.

IDAHO (AUGUST): Pray for the camp taking place in Idaho, that God would be glorified, and campers would clearly hear the Gospel message. Pray for the strength of the Idaho team as they grow and continue year after year.

If you tried to check out our website in the past couple of months and found warnings about a virus, you can be assured that it has all been cleared up. We were the victims of a hacker but we have a new service provider and everything is working correctly now:  
[www.cristovive.net](http://www.cristovive.net)

**Email Addresses:**

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**Mission of CVI**

To provide children and youth with disabilities and their families an opportunity to experience the love of God and faith in Christ through a fun and engaging camp experience.

**Vision of CVI**

To create opportunities which will inspire participants to respond to the message of God's love and delight in them and lead them to a genuine experience with Jesus as Lord and Savior.



*Cristo Vive International*  
[www.crisiovive.net](http://www.crisiovive.net)

...*Building Dreams*  
 ...*Changing Lives*

**More Prayer Requests:**

CVI: Pray for the mission and vision of Cristo Vive International to be clear in the upcoming years as we grow and expand. Pray for our leaders in all locations, for endurance throughout the year as they pour time into this ministry. Pray for the precious hearts of campers to feel Jesus and know Him! And pray for the finances of CVI, as we are often facing difficulty in funding many of these camps and events.

THANK YOU to all of you that read this letter. We could not do what we do without YOU!

Written by: Crystal Galvin from Rio Grande Valley, Texas