

## 1:ONE

QUITO, ECUADOR

## ONE LIFE CHANGED

Living in **extreme poverty**, abandoned by his father, and mourning the death of his mother, **fourteen year-old Miguel** felt he had nowhere to turn. So, like all too many bright young **Ecuadorians**, Miguel sought freedom and friendship in a **street gang**. But even as he spent his days **stealing, conning, and begging**, he knew somewhere deep inside that his was a **different destiny**.

Then one day missionaries from **Casa Gabriel**, an **ITeams/Youth World** training ministry for former **street kids** invited him to live at the center. He was uncertain at first. Did he really want to **give up his freedom**, as painful as it often was, to live with them?

Finally, he made a decision. He would **give up the streets**. Soon Miguel surrendered his life **completely to Christ**. Over the next five years God would **radically change** his life in every aspect.

Today this one time con man and thief spends his time **teaching** Bible studies, **leading** other young people, and **working** with the poor. Due to **Miguel's testimony** and continual life example, three of his **sisters have come to know Jesus** as their Savior. He hopes to one day serve as a **pastor or even a missionary**. "I don't care if I serve Christ **somewhere in Ecuador** or in some far away country," he says, "as long as I can **introduce people** to my Best Friend and Savior, **Jesus Christ**."



Learn more about Miguel's story by watching the Youth World video on the ITeams website at [iteams.org/resources/videos](http://iteams.org/resources/videos)

### One Fruitful Meeting

The other day I met with Franklin, a friend from Anderson High School who brings a lot of groups to El Refugio.

As soon as we sat down Franklin shared about the impact that the El Refugio experience was having on the student body of Anderson. He spoke for quite some time telling me stories of students whose lives had been completely transformed by God's love.

He told me about a kid named Joel, who recently gave his life to Christ and decided to return to his family - who he had run away from a while ago. The trip to El Refugio had been one of the turning points leading to those decisions.

I was amazed! It was so encouraging to hear the stories... to actually hear about some of the fruit of this ministry.

- Paul

### ITEAMS YOUTH WORLD

[www.youthworld.org.ec](http://www.youthworld.org.ec)

- » **La Red Juvenil** - Equips national youth leaders throughout Latin America
- » **Short Term Teams** - Exposes youth groups and churches to missions in local communities and the world
- » **Hacienda El Refugio** - Facilitates a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through nature and outdoor adventure
- » **Expat** - Ministers to international students and families in Quito, Ecuador
- » **Casa Gabriel** - Disciples boys who once lived on the streets

## ITEAMS/YOUTHWORLD EXISTS TO IDENTIFY, TEACH AND EQUIP LEADERS TO IMPACT YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

### INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO GO

**SHORT-TERM TEAMS (Ecuador)** - Be exposed to missions, ministry, and the world as your group serves for 7-12 days with Youth World. For more details visit [www.youthworld.org.ec/qquest2.htm](http://www.youthworld.org.ec/qquest2.htm)

**INTERNSHIPS (Ecuador)** - Serve from 2 months to 1 year in any of the 5 ministry areas of Youth World.

**DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES (Youth World, Ecuador)**  
As a large, diverse and growing team Youth World is in need of someone to develop the Human Resources department.

For more opportunities to GO, visit [iteams.org/wws](http://iteams.org/wws)

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

- » **\$25 will scholarship** one leader to attend our 11th Annual Youth Workers Conference in 2007.
- » **\$125 will send** two of our La Red Team members to a church or camp to do youth ministry training for leaders.
- » **\$2,500 will help** develop a National Internship Fund, providing experience in youth ministry and leadership within the local church.
- » **ITeams USA General Fund** - A gift to the general fund at ITeams-USA helps provide resources to create new and innovative ministries such as those bringing the hope and healing of the gospel to the youth and families of Ecuador.

You can now GIVE online at [iteams.org/give](http://iteams.org/give)

#### ONE LONG-TERM TRANSFORMATION

They arrived looking like any other group of **high schoolers** – girls carrying their pillows off the plane, guys too busy rough housing to even **notice what country** they were in. Little did they know that the next week would **change their lives**.



Six weeks after returning from their experience in Ecuador, a group of high school students were moved to raise \$33,000 for the children and families they served while in Ecuador.

Working **with the poor** and horribly underprivileged children of Quito for a week **motivated this team** from Nashville, TN to do something different when they returned to the US. They decided to **raise money** by starting a foundation, complete with website and online giving options. In just six weeks **they raised over \$33,000** for the community they served while in Ecuador!

Explains **Brad Miller**, ITeams Ecuador Team Leader, “A **short-term mission experience** cannot just be about a team’s time here; that would be an amazing waste of resources, time, and energy. It must also be about the change that takes place **within each person** and how they express that change **within their communities** when they return home.”

Brad continues, “Our desire is that **God’s church** in Ecuador **be strengthened** AND that the team members would **bear much fruit** in the days and months that follow their time with us.”

#### GO OR GIVE

For more information about opportunities to GO or GIVE, contact us at 800.323.0428... or visit us online at

[www.iteams.org](http://www.iteams.org)