



# Christian Light Foundation Costa Rica

EVANGELISM and DISCIPLESHIP  
in the hard places of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Venezuela

January, 2026

272nd consecutive monthly newsletter



## — Is the ministry a humanitarian organization? —

The goal of the entire ministry is to share the gospel, disciple, empower, and send out. Evangelism and discipleship are the cornerstones of the ministry, and this has remained unchanged from year to year. This has been the goal and firm foundation since the beginning, almost 24 years ago.

Humanitarian organizations aim to deliver assistance, including food, water, shelter, medical care, education, and protection to those in need. Their mission often centers on reducing suffering and supporting recovery and resilience. The need in the areas that God has called us is great, and we are compelled not to ignore such need. No doubt, action is required.

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* Hebrews 13:16

What do we do with minimal resources to be true to the vision of evangelism and discipleship, and also address the tremendous need around us? We don't view this difficult question as something to put on a balance.

We are not a humanitarian organization.

Can we use feeding hundreds of hungry children as a platform to share the gospel, as a way of putting the words, "We love you!" and "Jesus loves you!" into action? Can we enter the grade schools in the name of Jesus to proclaim His name as Lord to thousands of kids while helping with uniforms and school supplies? Can we surprise a struggling family with a bag of groceries in Jesus' name and take the opportunity to share the gospel? These are just a few of the many examples of the ministry's efforts to meet humanitarian needs, but that is never the goal.

*In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* Acts 20:35

Some have expressed amazement that this is done without asking about their religious background or country of origin. These efforts are never focused only on the church family or only on those already in the ministry. In fact, we recognize the number of grocery bags handed out each

month, but we truly rejoice over those who come to saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ through that simple act of helping in love. We recognize the number of plates of food being served in the feeding center, but truly rejoice over the many children (and families!) who are now walking with Jesus and even teaching others to love and follow Him. We rejoice over an 8-year-old who met Jesus over a bowl of rice and beans and is now a board member, allowing God to use her experience to help make the hard decisions many years later.

For the ministry, humanitarian needs, as great as they are, are not equal to evangelism and discipleship. This can be hard to understand for those looking on from afar. Imagine how hard it is for the leadership to make crucial decisions regularly while staring at the needs up close, knowing the children and families personally.

There was a time when the ministry lost a significant donor because it would not focus more on the obvious and urgent needs around us. Humanitarian and spiritually based ministries can be combined, and some organizations may do so effectively. However, when we were recently asked, we had to explain that the ministry is not primarily a humanitarian organization.

God's Word commands us to feed the hungry and care for the needy. God's Word also commands us to make disciples, even in the hard places. May God grant the leadership the wisdom to make God-honoring decisions with the limited resources available. Will you commit to praying with us this year?

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...*  
Matthew 18:19

Talk about poverty, and people think of hunger. It's a place to start. Hunger is the image of poverty's emptiness. People are hungry for food, yes, but they are also hungry for safety, shelter, clean water, protection from criminals, education and training, decent jobs, protection from abuse, and love. Hopelessness, loneliness, and the feeling of being unwanted are prevalent in the slums of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and Venezuela. Danger is a daily reality.



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