

# scattered

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Acts 8:4

## A Simple Act

*by Kyle Leon, Costa Rica*

Hitting a police car with a motorcycle going 80 miles per hour is a life-changing experience. After this high speed chase was over, Carlos knew he was on his way to prison for a long time. When he was released three years later, he had a two-year-old girl and a young wife to care for. He needed a new start, far away from the big city and all its temptations. The small coastal town of Esterillos Oeste seemed like the perfect place to start over.

Hard work and a growing family kept Carlos and his wife, Gabby, busy over the next few years. They would occasionally attend the local Catholic church, as well as AA meetings where Carlos was able to conquer his addictions. But he still felt empty.

Driving by the soccer field on his motorcycle one day he saw Dennis, my husband, building a playground. Dennis was working alone so Carlos stopped to ask if he needed help. Dennis invited him to come back for the park's inauguration the next day. Carlos came with his entire family.

The following day Carlos and his family came to church, and they have not missed a Sunday in the last two years. They immediately began a new believers' study with Dennis. Carlos felt he understood the Bible and what God wanted from him for the first time. Carlos and Gabby became leaders in the church, setting up chairs and being involved in hospitality, as well as singing in worship. God called them to start a youth group. Carlos says he feels called to these youth and hopes that by sharing with them, they can learn from his mistakes and not have to make the same bad choices he made at their age.

Carlos is a new man. God transformed his life and the life of his wife and children. God continues to use them to change the lives of the youth with whom they work.

Carlos came to the Lord because he was impressed by a simple act of love – building a playground.

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