

GÉNESIS

¿POR QUÉ ESTÁS AQUÍ?

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Comunidad de Estudiantes Cristianos del Ecuador

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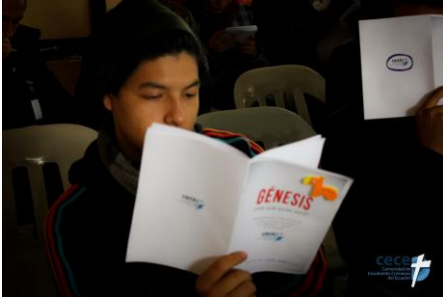
José Valentín (N26D) Oe8-7 y
Domingo Espinar, Esquina
Quito, Ecuador



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WORDS FROM OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR



"Enoch walked with God..." These are the words registered in the book of Genesis to describe Enoch (Genesis 5:24). Of Noah, it is said that he, "...was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries..." (Genesis 6:9). Promoting the fidelity of God and encouraging just and honest conduct is central to what CECE does with university students and alumni/professionals. Our purpose is to cultivate a generation that will walk faithfully with God, which means walking in the ways of justice and honesty in all other relationships. The book of Genesis gave us

valuable orientations to this point as we studied this book throughout this year.

Faithfulness, justice, and honesty are needed themes in the discipleship of the students and professionals of our country. Not long ago, one of the senior leaders of IFES Latin America shared that he was convinced of the revolutionary potential that moral integrity holds, even if such integrity were held by only one person. Someone acting in an integral way can end such systems of corruption and establish new systems that are both transparent and beneficial.

As it is our task to walk faithfully with God, it is also our job to celebrate the faithfulness of God with us. If we have walked faithfully with God, it is because He has been faithful with us in the first place. Our faithfulness is only an expression of His faithfulness. And it is exactly this to which I want to invite you, through the reading of this 2018 Annual Report.

We celebrate the fact that the Lord has been faithful in deploying His missionaries – university students – with distinct initiatives on campus. We celebrate that the Lord has been faithful in providing for the accompaniment of His missionaries – through staff workers. We celebrate that the Lord has been faithful in providing direction for CECE through the National Board and National Direction. We celebrate that the Lord has provided through generous and sacrificial ministry partners for His work.

As it has been made known, I will continue serving as National Director until December of 2019. This is my penultimate Annual Report. I pray you enjoy your reading of this report and that you may join with us in our prayer of gratitude to the Lord for His blessings poured out on CECE this year.



Josué O. Olmedo Sevilla

National Director

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MINISTRY LIFE

Ministry Life is a central focus of our daily life for those of us that make up CECE. In this year, we have seen Jesus working in various ways with the purpose of reaching more university students with the gospel. Here, we give a special focus to five general areas of CECE's Ministry Life: Student Initiatives, Global Partners & Interinstitutional Relationships, New Life, Special Events, and our National Board.

Student Initiatives

Proxi

The proxi is a way of presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ through a contextualized conversation around a theme that is relevant on campus. In the last couple of years, we have created proxis around the themes of suffering, the future, stress, and Christmas. This year, as a result of the Genesis Project and our focus on creation care, we created a proxi around the theme of the environment. Why is it important to care for creation? As Christians, what is our role? These are a couple of the questions that came up during conversations in the various cities that the Genesis Proxi was used.



Narnia Project



In the city of Quito, the Narnia Project was presented in January! The Narnia Project is a contextualized version of the C.S. Lewis classic, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, adapted and contextualized for the realities encountered in daily university life. Around 450 people attended this presentation which took place in the theater of the National Polytechnic School (EPN). After the play ended, the students hosted a forum to explain some of the details of the play and the purpose of Lewis' original work.

Genesis Project

As an active response to the study of the book of Genesis we have done at a national level this year, the idea of a national project to talk about creation care emerged, and thus the Genesis Project was born.



The Genesis Project has three central elements:

1. An 8-week inductive Bible study about creation care
2. Evangelism using the Genesis Proxi
3. A service project to apply what we have been learning in the Bible studies, focused on caring for creation on our university campus

Overall, the Genesis Project was implemented in 7 cities throughout the country with an impact of reaching around 700 students through the inductive Bible studies, Proxi conversations, and service projects. Other elements that were also included in the Genesis Project were two clean-up and reparation projects at our National Office.

University Groups

University Groups are small group Bible studies conformed of students that meet weekly on their campus to study the Word of God – be it on the Quad, in an empty classroom, the cafeteria, or any space that can be found! These groups are a space to study the Word for themselves, ask questions, and learn in community, all while being encouraged to invite others and thus cause an impact in the lives of their friends and classmates with the Gospel of Jesus.

This year, we had 27 University Groups nationally in 20 different universities located in 8 different cities throughout the country (Ambato, Guayaquil, Ibarra, Portoviejo, Riobamba, Santa Elena, and Quito). In these weekly meetings we were able to study with an average of 153 students every month!



Alumni/Professionals Ministry



This year we also had the opportunity to start up three Alumni/Professionals groups in three distinct cities (Guayaquil, Loja, and Quito). We celebrate the participation of the 28 professionals in these groups. Within these meetings, participants engage with one of the various materials available – “Where is God on Monday?”, “Tendrán Nuevas Fuerzas”, “Shining Like Stars”, “Limits”, and the CETI certification.

Global Partnerships & Interinstitutional Relationships

International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES)

CECE is part of an international family. We are an affiliated movement of the IFES, which has movements in more than 160 countries globally. As an affiliated movement to the IFES, CECE applied for a grant for an evangelistic project (Genesis Project). Our proposal was accepted, and we received \$900 to fund the Genesis Project and apply it at a national level in various cities where CECE is presently working.

InterVarsity/USA

This year, we were able to maintain a cooperation agreement with InterVarsity/USA which allows the continuance of Brett Schaffner here as a staff worker in the city of Quito.

TSCF New Zealand

Ruth Hicks, staff worker with TSCF New Zealand, continued to serve as the Team Leader in Quito. Ruth celebrated 17 years of service with CECE this year.



Ecumenical Projects Committee

The agreement reached at the end of 2016 has been maintained this year with the Ecumenical Projects Committee as the operating entity of the COFA scholarships, from which we have been able to continue providing scholarships to CECE students who would not have access to a university education otherwise.

Help for our Brothers

In December of 2018, we began a new interinstitutional relationship with the German organization, Help for our Brothers. It is a German Christian organization which helps to finance church and Christian organization projects. With their support, a training project can be financed for the CECE Staff team. This project includes: two national retreats, literature resources, and the onboarding of new intern staff, and more.

“Being a part of CECE has been a great blessing and challenge. To start this group in Santa Elena will be a true feat. We are studying the material “Real Love or Fatal Attraction?” and it has been a huge blessing for those that have been meeting with us.”

*-Dan
CECE Santa Elena, UPSE*

New Life

Santa Elena

In the second quarter of 2018, a student, Dan Magallán, decided to start a new University Group on his campus. Through his pioneering efforts, we have managed to establish this new group in his city. Since we do not have a staff worker in this city, the staff workers from the city of Guayaquil are accompanying Dan and his efforts due to the geographical proximity of the two cities (a couple of hours by bus).



Special Events

Fondotón



The Fondotón is a national event which has the objective of making our work among university students more visible and inviting others to partner with this mission through their prayers and financial gifts, which allows us to fulfill our calling to university students in a sustainable manner.

This year, the Fondotón took place in January and was the third consecutive year as a national event. We had a total of around 80 participants nationally who ran in the Fondotón, which resulted in \$7,837.44 being raised to help finance training and discipleship spaces for students and staff, such as National Camp.

National Camp

In March, we celebrated our National Camp. National Camp is one of the most important discipleship events, where, for five days, students from throughout the country come together and are discipled and encouraged through the study of the Word and through various workshops that are designed to help them carry out their missional work on their university campus in their cities.

This year, National Camp took place in the city of Quito with the participation of 143 people (students, staff, and professionals/alumni). The focus of National Camp 2018 was the book of Genesis with the tagline "Why are you here?". National Camp participants heard from various expositors including our National Director, Josué Olmedo, staff workers Carlos Ruiz and Adrián Coral, and then-student, now-intern staff, Andrea Utreras.

During National Camp, participants also had the chance to take part in various workshops with many different themes – trustworthiness of the Bible, the Gospel and Creation Care, Inductive Bible Study, Interpersonal Relationships, Conflict Resolution, Evangelism, and Apologetics. There was also a workshop for alumni and professionals during two days of Camp on the theme of Work, Family and Faith which was facilitated by our friends, Erik Vásquez and Ediana Marín from the ministry Vínculos para el Cambio.

"My takeaway from National Camp is that it has strengthened me and allowed me to rest. Apart from all that I learned, it was exactly what I needed. I was comforted in the fact that I am God's beautiful creation. My identity is valuable, and I should share it with others and within my university."

**-Leslye
CECE Guayaquil, ESTATAL**



Andean Christian University Student Conference (ECUA)

"Having participated in an ECUA was incredible. The teachings were really challenging and having studied Ecclesiastes has helped me to reflect on the importance of life and how important it is to fear God throughout the day."

**-Isaac
CECE Guayaquil, UG**

The Andean Christian University Student Conference (ECUA) is an event of the Andean sub-region of the IFES. This event takes place every two to three years, alternating between the four countries that form the Andean sub-region – Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. This year's ECUA took place in Cochabamba, Bolivia from July 21st to 29th. The focus of ECUA 2018 was the book of Ecclesiastes and the tagline "The Meaning of Life". From Ecuador, we sent 17 delegates, between staff and students, to take part in this event.

During this event, around 100 participants listened to the main expositor, Igor Amestegui, ex-General Secretary of the Bolivian IFES movement. They also heard from Carlucci dos Santos and Jorge Bermúdez. ECUA also hosted spaces of worship, Bible study, workshops, cultural presentations, and much more.



World Student Day



Each year the 160+ movements that make up the IFES come together for a day of prayer for the university. This is World Student Day (WSD). This year, we celebrated WSD on the 19th of October. Throughout the country of Ecuador, CECE students organized prayer events to intercede for others and pray for other IFES movements. Some students were even able to connect with students from other countries via video conference to share a special time together in prayer and fellowship. Others went out on their campuses throughout the day to hand out candy and offer prayer for the students they encountered.

National Board

As part of the governance of our organization, the ministry of the National Board is made up of 9 volunteer members, including the National Director and two student representatives. The Board oversees the administrative and organizational health of the ministry. The National Board meets quarterly to review all pending matters regarding the administration of the ministry and to review and accompany the advancement of the mission of students in the distinct universities throughout the country. This year the National Board received the workshop “Developing a Strategic Plan” from Marina Medina, promoter of Governance within IFES Latin America. Within the roles of the National Board is also to stay on top of all required documentation before the regulatory entities of the country such as the Ministry of Labor, tax entities, etc.

“The Lord put the desire in my heart to study His Word intentionally. To start, it was quite the challenge, especially in the beginning on my own... I met Taty Vera and she told me about CECE and their meetings and now I attend regularly. It fills me up to study the Word during the week with people who understand my context. This challenges me to practice what I am learning with others that don’t yet know God...”

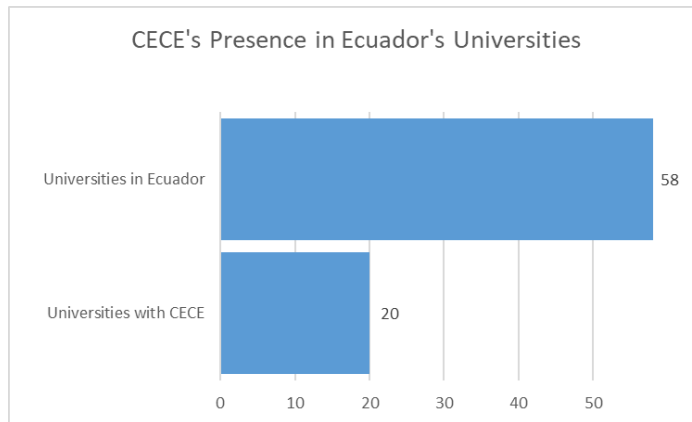


“...The time spent studying helps us to grow together in understanding and in spirit upon hearing how the Word of God is speaking in a different way to each person and I am very happy to be a part [of CECE].”

*-Paullete
CECE Quito, PUCE*

OUR GROWTH

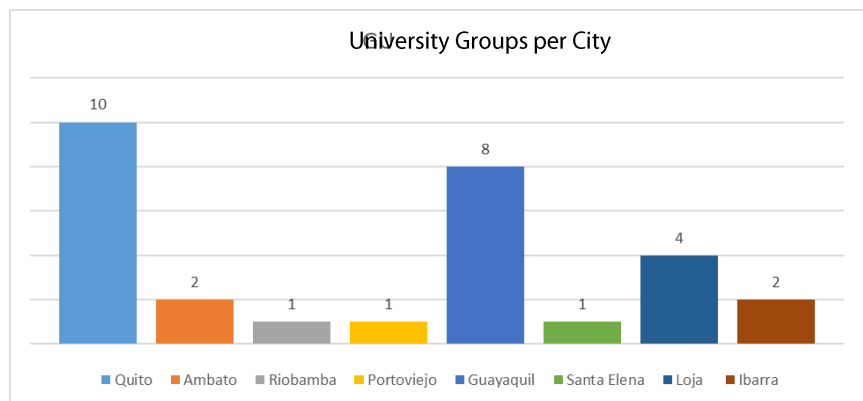
CECE's Presence in Ecuador's Universities



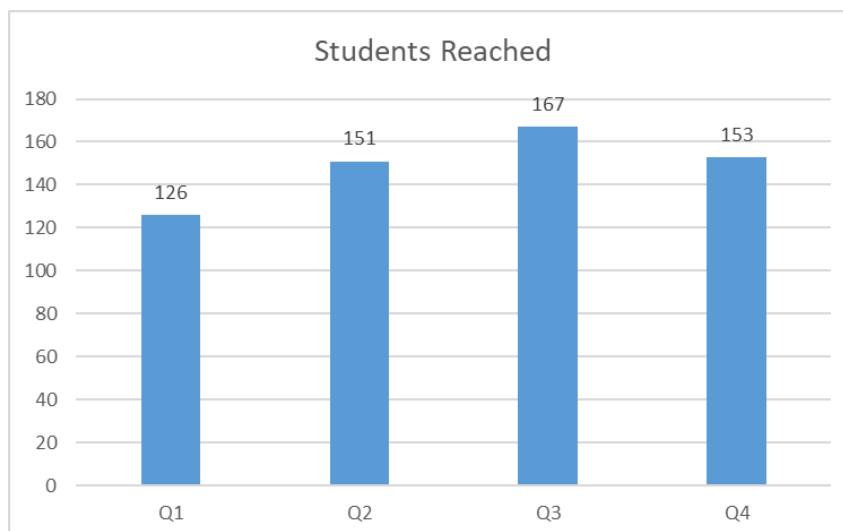
During 2018, we grew to include a new university, in comparison to last year! This means that CECE is present in 34.5% of all universities in Ecuador.

CECE Groups in Distinct Cities

In 2018, we saw a total of 29 University Groups in 8 distinct cities. The new CECE group in the city of Santa Elena started up in the second quarter of the year.

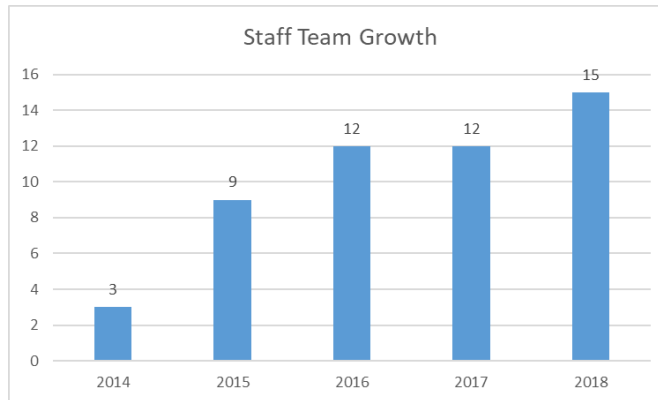


Participation in University Groups



Throughout the country, we saw an average of 150 students participating in University Groups quarterly. This represents a growth of 33%, from 113 to 150 students, as compared to last year!

Pastoral Staff Team



Since 2014, CECE has seen growth in the incorporation of new part- and full-time staff. This year, we welcomed three new intern staff to the team in two different cities – Quito and Loja.



Video Devotionals

This year, the National Communications Team began a new project to publish a video devotional each week via our website and social media, to help encourage students to investigate the book of Genesis on a personal level. These devotionals went out to a total of 62,558 news feed of Facebook users, which is an average of 1,277 times per week (or per devotional). Of the 1,277 times a video devotional was displayed on someone's news feed, it was sent to 655 distinct, unique users, on average, per week, of which 167 of them watched more than 3 seconds of the content.



For having so much success with this initiative, the National Communications Team is going to be creating a video devotional for each chapter of the new Book of the Year for 2019 as well!

Blogs

During 2018, CECE published more than 49 blogs on our website. We saw an average of 186 visits to each blog.

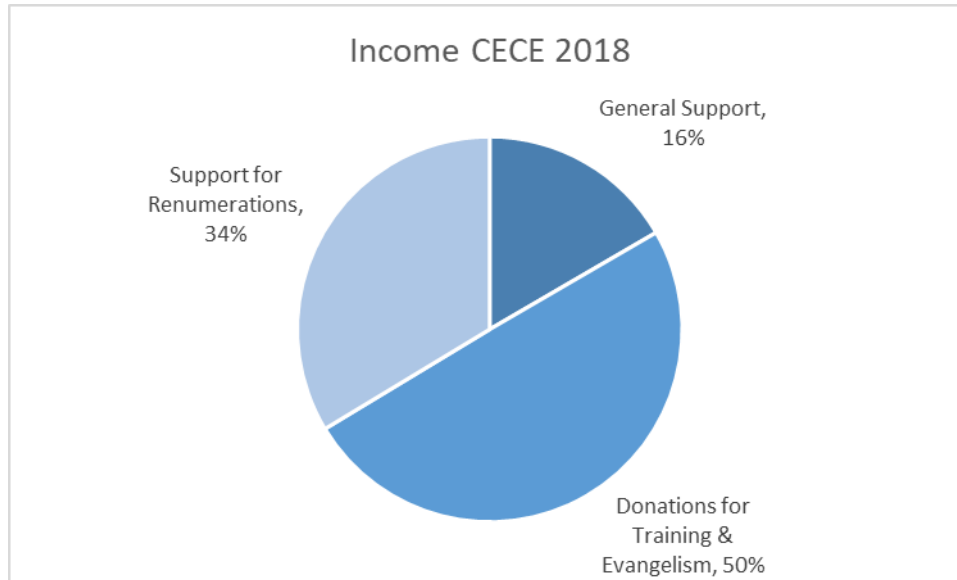


THE MOST VISITED BLOG OF 2018:

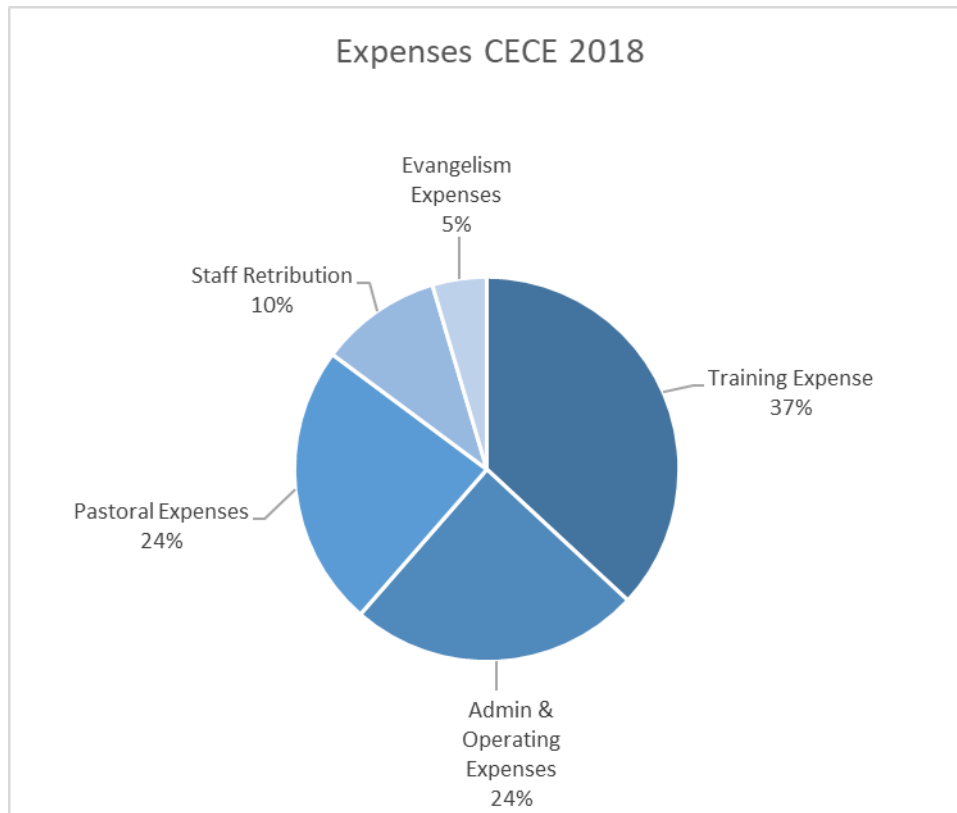
"Suicide: A confession" published on the 1st of August by staff worker Brett Schaffner with 1,276 views.

FINANCES

Income



Expenses



CALENDAR 2019

January

- 19, National Board meeting
- 26, Fondotón (national fundraising initiative)

February

- Visit Local Groups

March

- 13-17, National Camp

April

- 7, CECE's 28th Anniversary (month of local anniversary celebrations)
- 13, National Board Meeting

May

- Possible InterVarsity/USA visit
- 4, 1st National Staff Retreat
- 18, 1st National Student Leader Retreat

June

- Visit Local Groups
- Possible InterVarsity/USA visit
- 1-2, 1st National Communications Team Retreat
- 8, Liturgy Workshop

July

- 1-3, Student Meeting for World Assembly
- 3-11, World Assembly, "Messengers of Hope", South Africa
- 20, National Board Meeting

August

- 23-25, National Student Leader Formation Event (EFE)

September

- 7, 2nd National Staff Retreat



October

- Visit Local Groups
- 12, National Board Meeting
- 18, World Student Day
- 19-20, 2nd National Communications Team Retreat
- Local Group Student Elections

November

- 9, Fondotón 2020 (national fundraising initiative)
- 23-24, National Assembly y 2nd National Student Leader Retreat

December

- As is custom, there are no national CECE events in December. Local groups are encouraged to organize evangelistic activities around Christmas.

"My mind, my soul, my heart, and my vision will never be able to feel or think as they did before. I believed that the world was dying bit by bit, but I never thought that those to blame... were ourselves. My actions in this aspect have changed now knowing that I am a co-carer of this earth and that God has sent me out to work with Him..."

**-Valery
CECE Guayaquil, ESTATAL**

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the grace of God during our process of transitioning leadership and for wisdom to choose the appropriate person to assume the role of National Director.
- For the consolidation and extension of the mission of the University Groups in Guayaquil, Loja, and Quito.
- For the strengthening and development of the mission of the University Groups in Ambato, Ibarra, Portoviejo, Riobamba, and Santa Elena.
- For the consolidation and mission of the Alumni/Professional groups in Guayaquil, Loja, and Quito.
- For pioneering work and opportunities in other cities and universities.
- For the consolidation of the pastoral work of the current staff team and for the new staff that will join us.
- For wisdom and vision for the National Board and the National Director in their roles of leading the CECE ministry.
- For provision of the financial needs for ministry and administrative activities, and for further development of ministry partners for current staff workers.

JOIN WITH US IN THE MISSION

We are very grateful for your support and interest in the mission we have to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to the universities of Ecuador. We would like to extend a special invitation to you so that you can further partner with us in this mission. If you are interested in getting more involved with the ministry of CECE, there are various ways to do so. Two fundamental ways are prayer and financial support. We provided some prayer requests in the previous section that you can use to support us in prayer. You can even join us throughout the year in prayer by interceding for the events listed in the 2019 Calendar! The second way you can join with us in this mission is through financial partnership. If you are interested in giving to CECE, you can donate online at <https://give.ifesworld.org> by searching for “Ecuador” as an IFES Ministry and giving towards the “Student Ministry in Ecuador (National Movement)” account. You can also donate directly to CECE’s bank account with the following information:

C.E.C.E
Banco del Pacífico
Cuenta Corriente 518191-7

After donating, please send an email to donaciones@somoslacece.com to confirm your gift.



VISION FOR THE FUTURE

I hope that your reading of the 2018 Annual Report has brought a sense of gratitude to your heart and mind for all that the Lord is doing in and through CECE in the universities and in the lives of university students.



For 2019, which is soon to begin, it is our prayer that we can consolidate our presence in the 20 universities we currently operate in throughout our country; that we can see a quantitative and qualitative growth in the proclamation of the gospel among university students and alumni/professionals. Our prayer is also that the University Groups, guided by the Holy Spirit, create new, creative, and better ways to carry out the mission they have on campus and to make the gospel even more accessible to their fellow students. May our evangelistic initiatives (Bible studies, conferences, forums, proxis, Mark Drama, Genesis Project, and more) be multiplied!

For 2019, we want to see an increase in the number of staff workers that accompany students and University Groups. We desire to see an increase in the implementation of new organizational methods that allow us to better serve staff and students. We desire to see an increase in our ability to raise the funds that allow us to operate administratively and invest even more in discipleship and our mission.

For the coming year, we pray that by modeling the vocation of maximizing shalom for everyone, we will deepen our service and impact in the University, in our understanding of the relationship between science and faith, and between faith and work.

For the coming year, we continue to count on your partnership in the mission within the University, through both your prayers and financial contributions.

May the Lord bless you.



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National Director

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