

YOUTH IN MISSIONS

When the Students Become the Teachers

On a small street in one of the communities we serve, a group of children sits together on plastic chairs, listening carefully as their instructor opens a Bible and begins to teach.

She's not a teacher. She's not a pastor. She's a Cadaniño student.

Just a few years ago, she was the one sitting in a chair like theirs at a Cadaniño Community Impact Center, learning Bible stories, asking questions about faith, and discovering that God deeply cared about her life.

Today, she is the one sharing that same message with others. **This is the quiet miracle we are witnessing more and more at Cadaniño: our students are becoming teachers and instructors of what they have learned.**

How Transformation Begins

At Cadaniño, leadership doesn't start with a title; it starts with formation.

Week after week, students participate in Bible studies, discipleship classes, mentoring conversations, and times of worship, prayer, and reflection. These moments—reading Scripture, discussing life, and asking questions—shape how young people see themselves and the world around them. Over time, they begin to view their lives, their communities, and their future through the lens of God's truth. These steady rhythms of discipleship form the character, compassion, and faith that prepare them to serve others.

But learning alone isn't the end goal.

We believe young people grow most when they are given opportunities to live out what they are learning.

One of the first major opportunities came during the COVID-19 crisis in Guatemala. As many families lost their jobs, Cadaniño distributed emergency food bags. But the need quickly grew beyond what our staff could meet.



So we asked our students to help and the response was incredible. Students began delivering food, reading Scripture, and praying with elderly and vulnerable neighbors. For many, it was their first experience going from being served to serving others.

When the pandemic ended, something had changed and we felt led to challenge them with a simple idea:

Find children in your community and teach them about God. That challenge became the Cadaniño Youth Missions Club. Today, youth organize Bible classes in their neighborhoods, gathering children to sing, learn Scripture, pray, and grow in their faith.

At Cadaniño, we believe these youth are not just the future leaders of their communities, they are leaders right now. Our mission is to empower them to become changemakers, stepping forward as the hands and feet of Jesus to bring hope into a lost and broken world.

They are also being equipped through partnerships with the Genesis Foundation (leadership training) and the Identify ministry (evangelism training), preparing them to serve and share their faith.

Today, 41 Cadaniño youth are teaching more than 130 children in their communities each month.

Here are some of their stories

Salma Yessenia López (17)

What motivated me to join Youth in Missions was the opportunity to teach children about the Word of God and remind them that even when they feel alone or are going through difficult situations, God is always with them.

Many children feel like they don't have anyone who listens to them. But when we teach them about God, they learn that they always have a faithful friend who hears them and guides them. When they truly follow Him, they can feel peace and joy instead of loneliness.



SCAN QR CODE
TO WATCH A
OF VIDEO OF
HOW IT ALL
STARTED

One challenge for me has been learning to be patient. The children I teach are between six and ten years old, and they are very active. Teaching them is a big responsibility.

What has impacted me the most is realizing that some children look like they are doing fine, but in reality, they are going through very difficult situations. Some have told me their parents abandoned them, and now their grandparents or relatives take care of them but struggle to provide enough food.

Shaila Daniela Estrada (18)

What motivated me to join Youth in Missions was the opportunity to serve, teach, and share the Word of God with others.

One of the biggest challenges for me has been believing in my own abilities. There are days when everything goes wonderfully, and the class goes exactly as planned. But there are also days when things don't work the way we hoped. Through those moments, I've learned that even when things don't go perfectly, God still receives our service with joy.

Serving has taught me something very important: even when we think we have nothing to give, we always have something we can offer. While we teach others, we also learn from them. It doesn't matter where we serve or how many people are there. What matters is that we are doing it for the Lord. I've learned that God can use our talents and strengths to plant seeds in others. And even when we feel incapable, God is the one who calls us and equips us for things greater than we imagined.

What motivates me to continue serving is the passion in my heart to serve others with humility, patience, and love, following the example of Jesus.

I want my life to reflect His love and grace. I feel deeply that loving others without limits is the greatest response to His calling.

Jefferson Estuardo Bamaca (15)

What motivated me to join Youth in Missions was the opportunity to share the Word of God with the next generation. **I wanted to answer God's call to share the Gospel and help children understand that God can help us in every situation.** I also wanted to thank God for what He has done in my life, not just with words, but through serving others. At the beginning, one of my challenges was teaching classes and learning how to be a good teacher. I wanted to



set a good example and show children that God is with me everywhere I go. What has impacted me the most is the relationship I've built with the children. They grow fond of you, and when they greet you as their teacher, it feels very special.

What motivates me to continue serving is knowing that God is always with me and that I was created to serve Him by sharing His love with others.

A Gospel That Multiplies

What is happening through the Cadaniño Youth Missions Club is something truly beautiful. The children who came to Cadaniño to learn are now turning around and teaching others. **The message of the Gospel is spreading from one student to another, from one neighborhood to the next, and from one generation to the next.**

This is how the Gospel multiplies. It begins with a child learning about God's love. It grows through discipleship, mentoring, and leadership development. And eventually, that young person becomes someone who says, "I want others to know this too."

The impact does not stop when students graduate. Recently, Dora, the mother of one of our students, shared that her younger daughter has been receiving tutoring from Ruth, a former Cadaniño student who is now a school teacher. Ruth has been helping her improve her reading and writing so she can enroll in Cadaniño with her brother. This simple act of kindness reflects something powerful: the seeds planted through discipleship continue to bear fruit long after students leave our classrooms.

This is the model we see in 2 Timothy 2:2, passing on what we have learned to others who will also teach. **And when young people discover that their lives matter and that God can use them...they begin to realize something incredible. They are called to be changemakers in their communities, the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing hope into a lost, lonely, and broken world.**

Sincerely, Timothy and Sharie Martiny

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