



# COMMISSIONED BY CHRIST

SHORT TERM MISSIONS, LIFELONG FAITH



## God Calls Us to Community

When I first got involved with CBC in 2012 my life was in a period of transition. I had just moved into my own apartment (no more roommates!). My newfound solitude (which I mostly loved!) led me on a search for community and connection. I finally found what I was looking for through CBC and the people of Piura, Peru. My first trip to Peru opened my eyes to what it really means to be a neighbor. The people of Santisimo Sacramento showed me that my neighbor is literally anyone I meet and anyone in need.

Upon arriving home, my isolation was deafening; an empty apartment (literally, even my pet beta fish died while I was gone!) and neighbors I didn't talk to and had never met. Nevertheless, I forced myself to start reaching out. I talked to the older man I didn't know



*Engagement day for Elizabeth and Tim*

in the laundry room, I found ways to volunteer at home through CBC one day missions, I got more involved with my Book Group at church; I refused to live my life in isolation. Despite my introverted tendencies, it was more apparent to me than ever before: God calls us to community.

I went back to Peru in 2015. The next year, I met my husband, Tim. In 2017, he made the journey to Piura, Peru with me as a CBC missionary. Side by side, we built houses, prayed, received the Eucharist; each day we grew together in Christ. When our time in Piura was over, we extended our stay, traveling to the picturesque Machu Picchu, where Tim proposed. Our wedding was in July 2018 and I know our marriage is blessed and strengthened as a result of the time we spent working side by side with our Peruvian neighbors.

We are still involved with CBC locally, volunteering as often as we can at The Lamb Center in Fairfax, sharing the love of Christ with our neighbors both near and far.

*by Elizabeth - CBC Missionary,  
Team Leader and Local Volunteer*

## Letter from the Chairman of the Board

I am deeply grateful to God, our benefactors, board members, staff, volunteers, and missionaries who have all joined in a passionate way the missionary activity of the Church in the world through the work of Commissioned by Christ (CBC). As personally noted by our missionaries to the Dominican Republic, Peru, and Kenya, they have not only served the poor in these missionary places, but also experienced a tremendous growth in their own personal and spiritual lives. Their sentiments express one of the core goals of CBC, which is to provide adult Catholics and families the opportunity to deepen their faith through sacramental worship, fellowship, and serving the corporal



and spiritual works of mercy.

This upcoming year, we continue with several international mission trips and numerous one-day missions to serve those in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. May our Missionaries continue to experience a grace-filled zeal of love for our Lord, his Church and the poor.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Jamie R Workman  
Chairman of the Board

“They have not only served the poor in these missionary places, but also experienced a tremendous growth in their own personal and spiritual lives.”

## CBC Volunteer of the Year: Sr. Rose Wangui

Sr. Rose Wangui, VHM, was honored as CBC's 2018 Volunteer of the Year at the Annual Benefit Reception on September 21, 2018 at St. Luke Catholic Church in McLean, VA. Sr. Rose teaches and resides at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington, DC. She is the visionary of The Mercy Project - a multi-phased effort that included building and funding a water well that now provides clean water, a health clinic that provides basic medical care for the families, and the completion of a secondary school, the Mother of Mercy School, dedicated to empowering and educating 375 girls in the surrounding area of Lare and Nakuru County, Kenya. Sr. Rose is an inspiration to many for her love of the poor and putting that love into action. CBC is blessed to be leading its third annual mission trip to the girls' school from July 5-14, 2019.



## We're Excited to Introduce our New Board Members

**Alexa Herndon** is Vice President of Human Resources for the Washington Nationals Baseball Club. She is responsible for leading the organization's human resources strategy. A native of Wheeling, West Virginia, she currently lives in Springfield, VA with her husband and children and are parishioners of the Church of the Nativity in Burke.

**Marierose Hoang** is a primary Montessori teacher at the Children's House Montessori School in Reston after 25 year working with AT&T. Summers are spent in her home country, Vietnam, helping the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres spreading the Montessori Education method to underprivileged children with special needs. She is the Charity and Social Justice Committee Chairperson for the Asian Pacific Catholic Network and is an active parishioner at the Holy Martyrs of Vietnam Church in Arlington. She and her husband currently reside in Herndon.

**Marcel Jemio** works for the federal government and is entrusted with organizing, strategizing, and delivering the federal government's shared services initiative - an innovative effort to bridge the best of industry with the best of government. He has been and continues to be a Catechist for 20+ years and resides in Northern Virginia with his wife and children.

**Terri Oliva** is Executive Director of Human Resources for Edison Electric Institute, a premier non-profit organization with oversight of human resources, treasury and facilities management located in Washington, DC. She is a native of New Jersey and lives in DC with her husband and children. They attend St. Patrick Catholic Church in Washington DC.

**Casey Parker** is a native of Virginia and is owner and COO of Amber Ridge LLC, a management and marketing company specializing in full service management of non-profit trade associations. She and her husband reside in Haymarket, VA and are members of St. Katharine Drexel (SKD) Catholic Mission.

## At First I Was Skeptical....

I must admit that I was a bit skeptical of "mission trip" vacations years ago when they became popular. Perhaps because I saw them as a secular, feel-good gesture. I had never participated in one, so that was probably biased on my part. However, CBC converted me. Sure, I could have just donated money for the more effective laborers to do all the work, but the mission and I would have been worse off for it.

As a CBC missionary to Báñica, Dominican Republic, the backbreaking work of laying concrete and putting in fence lines was a time for me to witness Fr. Chris, our mission team chaplain, shoveling just as ineffectively as me. Thankfully, the local men gave instructions and occasionally jumped in to help us finish the work. As a high tech American, humility comes when you are digging holes that are repeatedly the wrong shape, depth, etc. Imagine putting in a fence line and your tools are a hammer, a 30-lb. post hole digging bar, an axe, an old tuna can and used barbed wire. You might be wondering, "what about the wooden posts?" Well, there was an axe and a lot of small trees on the other side of the field, but that was a job for the locals. After all, it made

no sense for a group of soft Americans to get in their way.

Now I will tell you the wisdom of the CBC mission. Every day I went to Mass, said the rosary, and prayed with no electronics or modern world incursions into my solitude. I was cut off from even thinking about the first world that I left behind. The food was simple, the entertainment was personal, and the people I visited were intimate. They truly enjoyed our visits and we enjoyed witnessing the value and dignity in their lives.

One morning before dawn, I went for a run to a nearby town. No cars, no lights - only the stars, moon, and occasional person walking to work. Total silence hung in the dry, cool, morning air. And even though I got lost in the dark on the way back, turning my 4-mile run into a 4.5-mile run, I felt safe being there in Báñica. The only concern I had was getting back late and holding up my team for breakfast.

In my world, I am surrounded by people like me, but my fellow missionaries were all very different. Within a week, I learned a lot from them, as we worked and shared our faith together. Every



**Andy & Fr. Christensen help build property fence line at St. Clare Chapel**

one of them is special and loving, and I will forever remember them fondly.

The small amount of money that I invested in this trip was not even a fraction of what I received in peace and closeness to God.

**by Andy - CBC Missionary Báñica**

## Celebrating a Decade of Forming Missionaries

**Generosity, sensitivity, and service** - three qualities that define a Commissioned by Christ missionary. Countless times this past year, I have witnessed these qualities in action as CBC missionaries shared meals with the homeless and laundered their clothes, comforted the elderly and AIDS-afflicted, and assisted mission site nurses helping the sick and homebound. We delivered food packages to poor neighborhoods, built houses for those needing shelter, taught English to school children, and brought life and joy to a women's shelter, as well as a rehab residence and several orphanages.

This year CBC is celebrating its 10th birthday! From humble beginnings in 2008, 400 missionaries have been called to minister to the poor at home and abroad - and the impact of those experiences has been far-reaching. Our missionaries continue to help as trip leaders, by participating in additional CBC mission trips, adopting the families they serve, pursuing yearlong missionary

work, and introducing family and friends to the joy of joining in a CBC mission trip.

No truer words reflect what CBC is creating than those of this year's 4th Annual Benefit - Create Encounters with Christ: Serve Those in Need. Fr. Joseph Uhen, pastor of Santisimo Sacramento Parish, in Piura, Peru, recently commented, "There is a real encounter with Christ in the different members of His Body when CBC comes to Piura and though we may not all speak the same language, a redemptive bond is shared as we work and walk together in service and prayer."

In individual and unique ways, God calls each of us to proactively live the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. With this as a cornerstone of our faith and mission, CBC looks forward to the next 10 years of forming missionaries through service to the needy and destitute. Is God calling you? Are you ready to step forward?

God bless,

Michelle Haworth  
CBC Executive Director



# Is God calling you? Are you ready to step forward in 2019?

## Bánica, Dominican Republic (March 9-17 and June 8-16)

CBC missionaries will work alongside the people in the community on various projects, including repairing houses, beautifying chapels, constructing classrooms, and helping to improve basic sanitary needs.

## Lare, Kenya (July 5-14)

Living and working at the Mother of Mercy School for Girls, CBC missionaries will have an opportunity to go into the classrooms and assist with teaching, repairing classrooms, helping to construct a science lab, assisting with ongoing grounds' projects, and creating memorable friendships with the school girls.

## Piura, Peru (August 3-10)

Working closely with the staff of Santisimo Sacramento Parish, CBC missionaries will be delivering clothing and food packages to the poor, visiting orphanages, building houses, comforting the sick with the CBC chaplain and much more.

## **NEW!** Nazareth Farm, West Virginia (Nov. 1-5)

Nazareth Farm is a Catholic community in rural West Virginia that serves alongside their neighbors to address substandard housing by providing home repair. CBC is excited for this inaugural domestic mission trip to Nazareth Farm and the opportunity to appreciate the beauty of Appalachia and the local community. No experience needed.

## One-Day Mission Trips (ODM)

We invite all past and future missionaries to serve our local communities by joining a one-day mission trip to organizations such as the Missionaries of Charity, The Lamb Center, DC Central Kitchen and more. ODMs run monthly and are usually 3-4 hours in duration.





**10th Anniversary Appeal**

*"I learned to always give back to the poor and never take anything for granted,"* commented a CBC missionary recently. Forming missionaries and serving those in need are at the heart of CBC, our benefactors. Please prayerfully consider playing an integral part in our growth by helping us reach our annual appeal goal of \$15,000. **It's easy to become a monthly donor or make a one-time donation at [www.commissionedbychrist.org/donate](http://www.commissionedbychrist.org/donate).**

Appeal funds that we receive assist in the spiritual and catechetical formation of missionaries, provide financial aid to those who otherwise could not attend, support the cost of priest chaplains on each trip, subsidize the supply costs for the various service projects undertaken by each group, stabilize our operational needs, and will support the development of four new mission programs in the next three years.

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## SAVE THE DATE! CBC's 5th Annual Benefit Reception will be September 27, 2019



*Beautiful quilt handcrafted from 2018 CBC mission t-shirts and donated to this year's silent auction*

**Become a Benefactor:**  
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