



Teen Crusade in San Miguel, Argentina

September 2025 • Vol XIX • No. 9

Dr. George Zarris, Director
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"declaring God's glory..." (Psalm 19:1)

THE NIGHTMARE

Fernando Orieta was a thief. Since his birth, he had only known a meager existence in a broken, dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father, a fearful mother, and four older siblings. Drunkenness and strife shared their one-room living space. Tea and bread sustained their lives.

When Fernando was ten, his father, wounded in a drunken accident, died leaving the family so destitute that all the older siblings dropped out of school and worked just to help the family survive. Fernando, often left alone, met "friends" on the street who introduced him to drugs—booze, pills, cocaine, marijuana, and even sniffing glue. By age fourteen, he was hooked! He dropped out of school and funded his addictions by helping his "friends" plan robberies at houses, schools, and businesses. During an altercation with a rival gang, Fernando wounded the son of a policeman so badly he almost died. Fernando's mother was forced to move to prevent Fernando's capture.

At fifteen, Fernando went back to school to please his mother, but his life was a nightmare. He sold drugs to his

classmates, drank and partied on weekends, and even tried to steal a car with the occupants inside. One night he was so high on drugs that he remembered nothing but traveling from nightclub to nightclub, until he woke up to find himself lying on a street corner with a friend who was covered in blood. Many times, when he found his mother on her knees, crying and praying for him, he would rage violently at her. By age eighteen, he was so angry at God and so empty of hope that he wanted to take his own life.

One day the pastor from his mother's Baptist church asked if he could borrow an expensive set of lights to use them for a visiting evangelistic group scheduled to perform in many neighborhoods of the city. "Only if I operate them," was Fernando's reply. Amazingly, he stayed sober for the whole week, while the group included him as if he were one of their performers. "For the first time in my life," Fernando remembered, "I felt loved and accepted." On Friday, the elderly missionary's wife talked to Fernando. She told him the Devil was killing him, and he was going straight to hell; but Jesus died for him, wanted

WE'RE REACHING THE WORLD!

to forgive him, and wanted to give him a new life. When Fernando prayed for forgiveness, he sobbed uncontrollably. He told God he had no idea how to quit his addictions. God would have to do it!

And God did! Fernando got baptized, cut his hair, and began to grow in Christ. He participated in everything at church. Six years later, God gave him a godly wife and, in time, added four godly children to the home. "I never thought that God would change and bless someone like me by giving me this beautiful family. I am deeply grateful!"

For the past eleven years, Fernando has assisted Missionary Larry Owens in San Miguel, Argentina. His dedication, intelligence, and superb organizational skills are evident as he directs the church's bus ministry, camps, and conferences. In July 2025 Fernando organized a youth outreach that drew 800 teenagers, of whom 500 were unsaved. Fernando and his helpers prayed and spent weeks canvassing the city, visiting every school, and standing in the piazzas announcing the conference with megaphones. *La Luz Latina*, CRI's Spanish radio network, announced the event. The station director Fabio Betancourth and Pastor Troy Masterson of Bible Baptist Church in Bradenton, Florida, were guest speakers. The moving of the Holy Spirit was palpable. Hundreds of teens were saved (*pictured on front page*).

Twenty years have passed. Fernando has proved his faith is genuine. His children follow in his steps, running bus routes on their own and participating in the music of the church. His wife is an ever-faithful helpmeet. In the midst of all the blessings, Fernando never forgets where he came from. "My life was a nightmare until God woke me up!"



Michael Germi and Ron Visser

MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE *Persian Television Needs*

The Persian television program *Besharat*, produced by Michael Germi, has been airing five times per week for five years at the cost of \$20,000 per year. New converts from this ministry are spread across the Middle East and Europe. CRI does not have funding for this outreach. Would you partner with us and send a one-time gift or monthly support for Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan to hear the gospel and be saved? WE NEED YOUR HELP!



BURUNDI Bujumbura – Off the Air!

Missionary Gregg Schoof, (*pictured above*), has reported that CRI's only radio station in Burundi, a landlocked East African country bordered by Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, and Democratic Republic of Congo, is off the air. The sixteen-year-old transmitter used to broadcast to one million people has finally "given up the ghost."

We need \$6,000 immediately for a new transmitter in order to continue broadcasting in the languages of Kirundi, French and Swahili. Would you help us? Please send gifts to CRI labeled BURUNDI.

PERU Paita, Piura – Our Fifth Station!

La Luz Latina has added a new affiliate, *Radio Resplendor* 96.1 FM in Paita, Piura, Peru (population 150,000). Adopting the moniker *The Voice of Today*, 96.1 FM has been broadcasting a decade under the auspices of the Evangelistic Baptist Church pastored by Pablo Paiva. Through the years, the expense of operating a radio station, upgrading equipment, and producing new programs has become increasingly difficult. By partnering with *La Luz Latina*, *Radio Resplendor* will be able to provide superior programming and a fresh, new sound without the expense of additional staff. Welcome to the network!

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