

cece 
Comunidad de
Estudiantes Cristianos
del Ecuador

Annual Report
2016

Comunidad de Estudiantes Cristianos del Ecuador

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Words from the National Director

“He stands out as one of the moral architects of his time.” This phrase was said about Charles Simeon, an English preacher from the XVIII Century, in one of his biographies, to describe his crucial role in the revitalization of the Christian faith in England during his lifetime. Putting the 2016 Annual Report in your hands, I am content knowing that in CECE throughout this year we have put in our grain of sand to the great task of forming university students and professionals as moral architects in their contexts. And of course, it is a calling we have been working to fulfill for the last 25 years!

As you may know, CECE chooses a book from the Bible each year to guide us in our missional initiatives on the University campus. We are finishing up our journey through Isaiah and we are about to begin one through three Pastoral Letters. One common theme to both of these texts, among others, is the urgency of the prophet Isaiah and of the apostle Paul to encourage the believing communities to live with righteousness and justice. Righteousness and justice that are derived from a relationship with the Lord. The prophet and the apostle both looked to form moral architects in their eras.



In the last few days in Ecuador we have heard of various scandals involving corruption throughout the country, some connected with the oil companies and others connected with the national soccer team, just to mention a couple of cases. On top of this, we find ourselves on the cusp of the presidential campaign season, where the candidates begin to viciously attack one another and are bringing to light various scandals that have been kept hidden until now. With things as they are, CECE's task and mission to form students and professionals to be moral architects in their contexts is more important than ever. Students and professionals who are inspired by the restoration of all things through Jesus Christ, who model righteousness and justice, and who embrace their vocation to grow and share this 'Shalom' with all.

I hope that you enjoy all that is shared in this report and that you may join with us in our prayer of gratitude to the Lord for all of His graciousness with CECE in this past year.

Josué O. Olmedo Sevilla
National Director

Ministry Life

Ministry life is the heart of CECE. It is our day to day. In this year, we have seen Jesus working in various ways – some new ways, some ways that have been done before – but all with the same purpose of reaching university students with the gospel. Here we give space to three general areas of Ministry Life in CECE: Student Initiatives; Global Partnerships and Interinstitutional Relationships; and Special Events.

Student Initiatives

Proxi

A proxi is a tool that the IFES group in the United States, InterVarsity/USA, uses to start spiritual conversations in a university context. In April of 2016 with the 7.8 earthquake that affected the entire country of Ecuador, CECE students in Quito saw a need that no one else was caring for – the spiritual need. There had not been much space within the university to process one’s emotions after the earthquake and CECE Quito decided to offer students this space while also connecting it with the gospel. From this tragedy the first proxi to be used in Ecuador was born. It was used in 4 different cities throughout the country – Quito, Ambato, Riobamba, and Portoviejo (near the epicenter of the earthquake).



In the following months, we have developed two additional proxis, making three in total, which have been used to evangelize more than seven times on university campuses in Quito, including some campuses where it has been difficult to go out and evangelize in a public manner due to campus access issues.

Through the use of these proxis, two students made a first-time decision to accept Jesus as their Savior!

Science & Faith Forums

In August of this year, we saw the second Science and Faith forum in the National Polytechnic School (EPN) in Quito. Towards the end of 2015, students from the EPN hosted a forum with the theme of “Science and Faith: What does science have to say about the existence of God?” This forum had over 300 students and professors in attendance!

With the questions that were received from the surveys at the end of the first forum, the students planned the second with the theme of “Science and Faith: Causality or Intelligent Design?” Once again, students and professionals arrived with anticipation to hear from the expositors – over 250 were in attendance.



Narnia Project



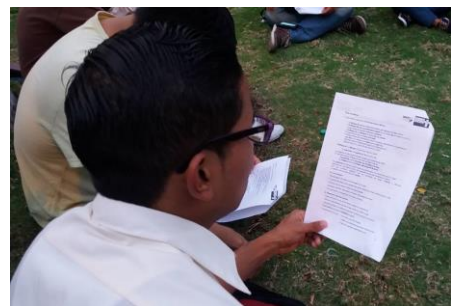
Another initiative of the students in the National Polytechnic School (EPN) in Quito is the Narnia Project that they have started. In these last few weeks, they have been preparing themselves to present a contextualized version of *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis that speaks to the realities that

can be found within the university.

They are working with the second book (in chronological order), *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* to design a play/dance to perform within their university in 2017. They are also planning various other ways that non-Christian student can interact with the themes of faith within the book, including movie discussions, book excerpt analysis, and others.

Mark Drama

On the coast in the city of Guayaquil, we have a group of students who are preparing themselves to present a play of the gospel of Mark in 90 minutes using about 15 students, without costumes, without scenery, and without professional actors. It is the gospel presented in a contextualized form for our century that, at the same time, maintains the central message of Christ and challenges students to think more about the life of Jesus and what it all really means.



This is an evangelistic effort to be performed within the university and in public places where the play is presented, but it is also a great discipleship space for the students that are performing because they must memorize the gospel of Mark for the performances.

Visit to Portoviejo



In the month of September, we saw a great initiative by our university students. Three months before, in June, a new CECE group started up in a brand new city – Portoviejo. This group is very special, as it currently has no staff workers to help with the growth and consolidation of the group – it is entirely student led.

Some CECE students from Quito on their vacations from the university decided to get a group together to travel to Portoviejo for a few days to encourage this new group and share some time in community among brothers and sisters in Christ. In these days, they studied the Bible, sang and praised God, and also used the Earthquake proxi mentioned earlier in this Annual Report to create a space for students from this university, that were impacted in a personal way, to process the emotions that perhaps they had not had time or space to consider.

It was an incredibly impactful initiative for the students from both cities and it really showed the value of community and solidarity that we have within CECE.

Global Partnerships and Interinstitutional Relationships

InterVarsity Nebraska

In 2016, we saw the fruit of various years of work with the partnership CECE has with our sister movement in the United States, InterVarsity/USA, specifically with the movement in the state of Nebraska. This year we received a group of seven students and one staff worker from InterVarsity who spent a total of four weeks in Ecuador. They spent the first week with CECE groups in Quito, one week with the groups in Guayaquil, a few days with the students who make up our National Student Leadership Team and the group in Ambato, a couple of days in Riobamba helping to evangelize on the campus there, one week working with a non-profit in Latacunga, and they finished their time with us in Quito.



During their time in Ecuador, they learned a lot about Ecuadorian culture, the biodiversity of our country, and the university context here. They helped us to consolidate some of our groups, evangelize (through proxis, spiritual conversations, English clubs, and other ways), share about mission in the university from their perspective, and grow the international community we have through IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students).



In October, two CECE students had the chance to travel to the United States and participate in an exchange with the movement from Nebraska. One student from Quito and one from Guayaquil were received in Omaha, Nebraska to get to know the movement there and to participate in a conference about starting new groups for Latinos within the university. The two students returned to Ecuador bringing back many memories, many new

friendships, and many ideas from what they learned to apply within CECE.

TSCF New Zealand

We not only saw an exchange with the IFES movement of InterVarsity/USA in Nebraska, but we also had the opportunity to send two students and one staff worker to participate in SPARC, a sub-regional conference of TSCF New Zealand.

These CECE representatives participated in the conference for one week and spent two additional weeks getting to know the New Zealand IFES movement. They learned a lot during their time in the new contexts of New Zealand. They returned to Ecuador ready to share some of what they learned and to apply some of these things in their CECE university groups.



Mission Alliance (Misión Alianza)

In 2016, we maintained the relationship we have had with Misión Alianza. With this interinstitutional relationship, we have been able to finance strategic spaces for the formation of students and student leaders.

Ecumenical Project Committee

Towards the end of 2016, we began an interinstitutional relationship with the Ecumenical Project Committee as an operating entity of COFA scholarships. Through this partnership, scholarships have been financed which will facilitate the continuing and completion of the studies of nine CECE students for the next eight semesters.

Special Events

CECE's 25th Anniversary



In April, CECE celebrated a very special day – our 25th anniversary! Although we did not celebrate in the month of April, we did have a special event in the month of October, to recognize this special year of ministry, pairing the celebration with another important event for the IFES, World Student Day. On the night of October 22nd, university students, parents, staff

workers, National Board members, pastors, and many more joined us in Quito from throughout the country for the formal celebration of our anniversary. This night we heard from various people who have participated in CECE throughout our history – and even our “pre-history”! We give thanks to God for these past 25 years working in the universities of our country and we pray that He continues blessing the ministry and calling of CECE for many years to come.

Andean Christian University Student Conference (ECUA)

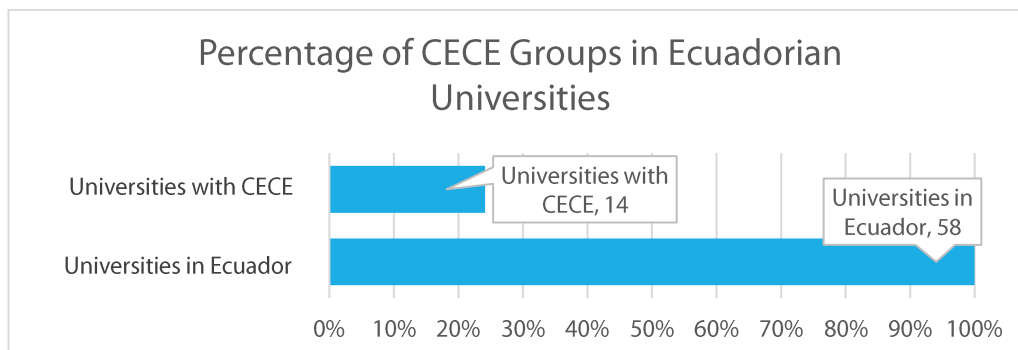
CECE had the privilege in 2016 to be the host movement of a sub-regional conference for the Andean region of Latin America. In the month of July, we welcomed more than 100 participants from 9 different countries. The Andean Christian University Student Conference took place at the Nazarene Seminary in Quito, Ecuador from July 23rd to 31st. The theme for the conference this year was: The Word: Seed that commits us to mission in the university.

For the nine days of the conference, university students listened to the principal expositor, Gideon Yung, from Hong Kong. They also heard from Ana Miriam Peralta (Mexico) and Ruth Padilla Deborst (Costa Rica). They were able to participate in times of worship, Bible studies, cultural events, and much more. On the 31st we may have said our goodbyes, but we trust that the “Seed” that was planted within the participants will continue to grow in their hearts and that they can harvest the fruit in all of the universities throughout the Andean region of Latin America and beyond.

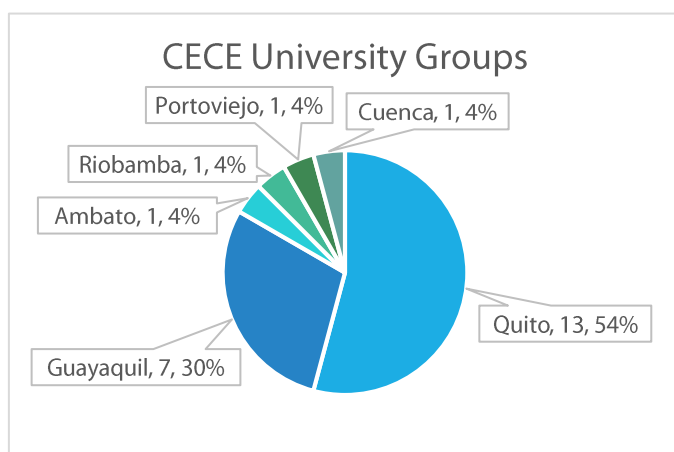


Statistics

Percentage of CECE Groups in Ecuadorian Universities

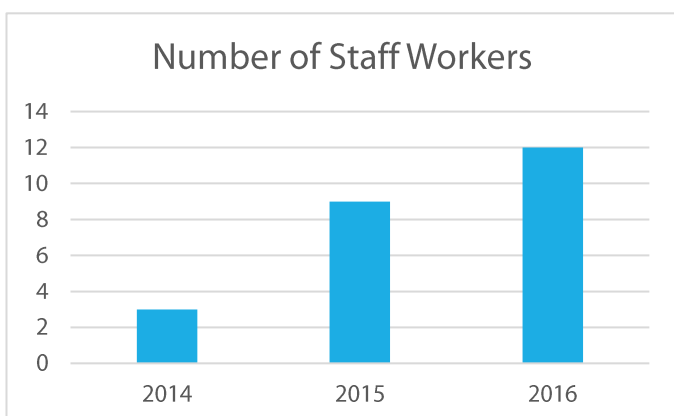


Number of CECE Groups and Percentage of CECE Groups by City



Throughout the year, CECE has established about **24 University Groups, in 14 universities** throughout the country. These University Groups are student-led. In 2015, 15 University Groups had been established, which goes to say that at least 7 student leaders have been developed to lead University Groups. This shows a **growth of 60% in University Groups** in the last two years.

Staff Worker Growth



Since 2014, CECE has seen a **growth of 300%** in the number of staff workers serving with the movement as a volunteer, part-time staff, or full-time staff.

Finances

4.	INCOME			<u>\$33.906,62</u>
4.1.1	Support and Donations			<u>\$33.906,62</u>
4.1.1.1	General Support		\$63,50	
4.1.1.1.1	General Support	\$63,50		
4.1.1.1.2	Local Groups Support			
4.1.1.2	Projects, Training and Evangelism Support			<u>\$29.888,12</u>
4.1.1.1.2.1	Training and Evangelism Support	\$10.010,24		
4.1.1.1.2.2	Seminary/Courses/Workshops and Events Support	\$17.097,50		
4.1.1.1.2.3	Camp/National Assembly/EFE Support	\$2.780,38		
4.1.1.3	Special Support			<u>\$3.955,00</u>
4.1.1.3.1	Administrative Remunerations Support	\$1.285,00		
4.1.1.3.2	Ambato Staff Support	\$1.907,00		
4.1.1.3.3	Guayaquil Staff 001 Support	\$643,00		
4.1.1.3.4	Guayaquil Staff 002 Support	\$120,00		
5.	EXPENSES			<u>\$33.731,89</u>
5.1	Ministry and Pastoral Expenses			<u>\$27.459,30</u>
5.1.1	Pastoral Expense			<u>\$1.896,68</u>
5.1.2	Training Expenses			<u>\$25.562,62</u>
5.1.3	Proclamation Expenses			
5.2	Administration and Finance Expenses			<u>\$6.272,59</u>
5.2.1	National Office Expenses			<u>\$2.005,77</u>
5.2.2	Fundraising Expenses			
5.2.3	Public Relations and Interinstitutional Expenses			<u>\$1.716,02</u>
5.2.4	Professional Fees and Remuneration Expenses			<u>\$1.870,63</u>
5.2.5	CECE House Expenses			<u>\$603,92</u>
5.2.6	Depreciation Expenses			
EXCESS AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2016				<u>\$174,73</u>



Calendar 2017

Book of the Year: Pastoral Letters (1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus)

January

- 21, Saturday, National Board Meeting, Quito
- 28, Saturday, Fondotón (National fundraising initiative)

February

- 27-28, Monday-Tuesday, Carnaval holiday
- Visit Local Groups

March

- 2-5, Thursday-Sunday, National Camp

April

- 1-2, Saturday-Sunday, I National Staff Meeting, Riobamba
- 7, CECE's 26th Anniversary (month of Anniversary celebrations)
- 9-16, Sunday-Sunday, Holy Week
- 22, Saturday, National Board Meeting, Quito

May

- 20-21, Saturday-Sunday, I CNE (National Student Leaders) Meeting, Portoviejo

June

- 10-11, Saturday-Sunday, Liturgy Workshop
- Visit Local Groups

July

- 15, Saturday, National Board Meeting

August

- 25-27, Friday-Sunday, National Student Formation Event, Riobamba

September

- 9-10, Saturday-Sunday, II National Staff Meeting, Guayaquil
- 18-23, Monday-Saturday, Regional Team Meeting, IFES Latin America

October

- 14, Saturday, National Board Meeting
- 20, Friday, IFES World Student Day
- Visit Local Groups

November

- 25-26, Saturday-Sunday, National Assembly y II CNE (National Student Leaders) Meeting. Quito, National Office

December

- No national events in December



Prayer Requests

Finishing up a year full of our Lord Jesus Christ's blessing, we are grateful for all that we have seen. We trust that God will continue using CECE to take the gospel to the universities of our country. With this in mind, we would like to invite you to join with us in prayer for the following requests:

- That the Lord continues empowering students with His Word and Spirit so that the gospel continues to be made known through our university groups and other missional initiatives
- That the Lord continues calling more staff workers to walk with students and university groups
- For the establishment of pilot groups for professionals in Quito and Guayaquil
- For the economic provision for important areas of CECE: administration, staff workers, training, and missional initiatives
- That the Pastoral Letters (1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus) and the emphasis on discipleship illuminate and guide the missional activities of CECE in 2017
- That the Lord continues to give wisdom, love, and holiness for the work of the National Board, National Direction, Staff Team, National Student Leadership Team, Local Groups, and University Groups



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 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 2017 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://ifesworld.org/en/give> by choosing to support "an IFES staff member/project/national movement" and entering "CECE Ecuador" in the input box. 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 oficinacional@somoslacece.com to confirm your deposit/donation.

Vision for the Future

I hope that your journey through the pages of the 2016 Annual Report has brought to your heart and mind a sensation of gratitude for what the Lord is doing in CECE and through CECE in the universities and in the lives of university students.

For the coming year, we are praying and organizing ourselves to consolidate our 24 current university groups, as well as establish even more groups throughout the country. For the coming year, we are praying and organizing ourselves so that these university groups continue pressing on with the missional initiatives that make the gospel accessible to other students. May these evangelistic initiatives be multiplied: Bible studies, conferences, forums, proxis, the Mark Drama, the Narnia Project, and more!



For the coming year, we are praying and organizing ourselves so that we may establish groups for professionals which will offer its participants the necessary orientations to experience their professional work through the Christian faith. May spaces of formation continue to grow as well for students: path of discipleship, National Camp, EFE, and exchanges with other movements!

For the coming year, we are praying and organizing ourselves so that modeling the righteousness and justice that come from a relationship with the Lord, we may deepen our service in the University, our understanding of the relation between science and faith, and between faith and work.

For the coming year we continue counting on your faithful prayers and economic support.

May the Lord bless you.

Josué O. Olmedo Sevilla
National Director