

Christian Children's Fund

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Study Tours: See the Smiles, See the World

Richmond, Va. – Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009 – Children and Christian Children's Fund sponsors develop a special bond through letter writing and exchanging of photographs. That bond grows stronger when children and sponsors meet through CCF's Study Tours.

"When I was introduced to her I melted," said Santa Fe, N.M., resident Alexandra Travis after meeting 6-year-old Natazia in Zambia last year.

Study Tours take CCF sponsors or people interested in CCF's programs straight to the countries where CCF works with deprived, excluded and vulnerable children. This year, plans are under way to visit Brazil in May and Vietnam and Cambodia this summer. A trip to Bolivia may take place this fall, said CCF's Assistant Director of Marketing Gary Duncan. Specific dates have not been finalized.

Duncan is no stranger to Study Tours – he's been on every one but two since the program started in 2002.

"We've had hundreds of people participate in Study Tours to every continent in the world," Duncan said. "While on the Study Tour, we try to spend two complete days visiting CCF projects and one complete day of visiting children of sponsors and their family members. The other time is devoted to learning about the culture, history, music and customs of that country."

Study Tours average about 10 days.

Several CCF sponsors have been on multiple Study Tours, including Dan Tearpock of Houston, Texas, who has been on two trips to Mexico.

"There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that they are truly helping these children and families out of poverty," Tearpock said after a trip to Mexico last year.

Tearpock's initial plan was to celebrate his sponsored child's 17th birthday. While they did have the "biggest and best birthday" party, Tearpock ended up meeting and sponsoring a 4-year-old girl while on the trip.



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Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is a global force for children, helping the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. Serving children since 1938, CCF works in 31 countries and assists approximately 15.2 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin. CCF is a member of the ChildFund Alliance.

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“She seemed like the perfect child,” Tearpock said.

Like Tearpock, Glynis Crabb of Hollister, Calif., has been on multiple tours, including one last year to Zambia.

“The children in every country are the future of the world and they deserve the best that we can give them,” said Crabb, who has been on five Study Tours.

For more information about CCF's Study Tours, visit www.christianchildrensfund.org and click on “Study Tours.”

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