

The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel

LIFE NEWS

Inca Link Casa Deportiva Cumbre Alta

by Jeremiah Shawver, Youth Pastor

 parksidevisalia.org

In Matthew 28, Jesus gives us the mission of the Church. "Go and make disciples." We do that at Parkside in a number of ways as we teach and live life together.

Our trip to Ecuador was through an organization named **Inca Link**. Inca Link was started by Rich and Lisa Brown – Christian and Missionary Alliance Missionaries to Peru and Ecuador. In the pursuit of making disciples Rich told us, "If something is biblical and can be used to make disciples, we are willing to try it." Ecuador Inca Link is a great example of this philosophy of ministry.

Our team in Ecuador had the opportunity to see several different ministries. One of those ministries is **Cumbre Alta**. This ministry began as an outreach to the neighborhood kids of Quito. The idea was to begin discipleship through playing soccer. What began as a simple outreach soon was organized into men's and women's soccer teams playing professionally in Ecuador.

Inca Link exists to reach the 300 million youth of Latin America. Cumbre Alta achieves this goal by walking alongside players as they seek to make a living through soccer. Many of the players come from difficult backgrounds. Cumbre Alta gives them the opportunity to follow their dream of being professional soccer players. The difference between Cumbre Alta and the other soccer teams in their division is their focus on discipleship.

The coaches at Cumbre Alta work for Inca Link as missionaries. So they use their position directing the team to walk with the players as they learn what it means to be a disciple of Christ. They help them find housing, other jobs, and churches. They give them guidance as the soccer players face difficulties in life. The

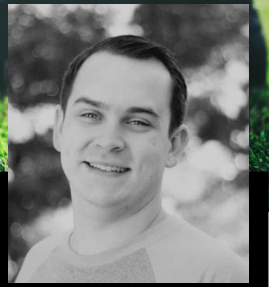
goal is to have a team of disciples who can share the light of the Gospel on and off the field.

This year Cumbre Alta's mission got a little bit bigger. The week we were in Ecuador, the team, coaches, and Rich and Lisa Brown boarded planes to travel to the United States to lead Soccer camps as a mission trip. While we were there, we were told that 10% of the 300 million Latin American youth live in the United States. So, Cumbre Alta is beginning to reach out to those youth much in the way their ministry got its start. The addition of the camps is evidence that Inca Link is committed to making disciples who make disciples.

In the short time Cumbre Alta has been in existence, the men's team has moved from the 5th to 3rd division in Ecuador's professional soccer. Their goal is to reach the top division in Ecuador. As they move up in divisions, their reach with the Gospel grows, as does their ability to reach out to the community of Quito. If they were to be promoted to the 2nd division, many of their players would be able to make a livable wage from only playing soccer.

As we spoke to the coaches, they asked for prayer as they began taking their teams to be missionaries to the United States. They also asked that we pray for their teams, as many of them did not come from a Christian background, that we would pray for transformation in their lives. I would ask that you join me in praying for Cumbre Alta as they spread the Gospel while playing soccer.

Jeremiah Shawver
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<https://www.incalink.org/ministries/ecuador/cumbre-alta>