

CLUB NEWS



Christian Union Sports Club: Carr. 65 #74-75, Int. 113, Medellín, Colombia Email: marcosw54@gmail.com Web: www.cosdecol.com

“FOR ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST AND TO DIE IS GAIN”

(Phil. 1:21)

It is with much sadness that we share with you the “passing” of our good friend and staff member, **Duber Rojas**. Duber went to be with his Lord today, July 7th. It was a fairly short and vicious battle with stomach cancer that took him from us. He leaves behind his wife **Sarah**, and three children **Juana, Javi and Samu**. Thank you for having prayed for him and family during this difficult time! On the one hand, it is difficult to understand these things—we serve an all-powerful God who can do all things, including healing from cancer. But on the other hand, we know that His will is best and that ultimately, He has provided an “eternal” healing for Duber in Christ!

For this reason, we also rejoice in and for the life of Duber! You can re-read his testimony in the March 2020 edition of the Club News. Duber, in spite of the pain and the hardship brought on by the cancer and its treatment, always remained upbeat and faithful in his commitment to Jesus Christ! Duber and Sarah were (are) living in Germany for the last two years, as he was completing a



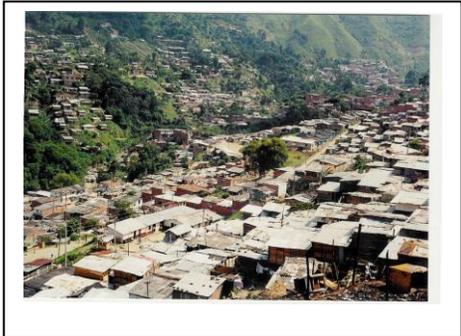
Duber served in Granada, Spain and in Morocco, as an outreach of our ministry to the Arab world.



PhD. Their plans were to return to Colombia to serve once again in the sports ministry and work in theological education.. **Please uphold in prayer Sarah and children as they face a new future without Duber**

As I gathered with the Rojas family today (Sarah and children are in Germany), the brothers (Wilson, Hamilton and Alex) reminisced on the impact that the Christian Union Sports Club has had on them. They were some of the first adolescents to begin soccer practice with us in 1988. Conclusion: *“None of us would still be here today if it had not been for that soccer ball and Jesus Christ.”*

Even though Duber is now not here, his ministry continues on! Back in the early 90’s, when Medellín was still battling incredible violence with the presence of the cartel and urban guerrilla groups,



Vallejuelos, on the outskirts of Medellín.

Duber began to work with young people in a displaced people’s community called Vallejuelos, just on the outskirts of the city. Although facing threats on his life, Duber stuck with the mission to share Christ via the soccer ball.

In 1994 a young 14 year-old girl named **Claudia Cordoba**, with her family, settled in Vallejuelos, having been displaced by the violence in north Colombia. It was a place of refuge for this family, but it was also a breeding ground for gangs and drug trafficking. As a teenager looking to fit in, Claudia was a prime candidate for becoming a part of the underside of life.

But, every day after school she would walk by a sandlot soccer field in Vallejuelos and see girls being trained in soccer. One day one of them, seeing Claudia stop and observe them, invited her to come and train with them. Claudia had played a little soccer where she grew up, so it was something she readily accepted. Soon she was happily playing soccer and making new friends. She also began to listen to Coach Duber as he shared about the new life in Christ.

Claudia turned out to be a leader, and after a two years Coach Duber began to give her responsibilities with the younger teams. She would train them, but it was Coach Duber who would bring to them the message of the Gospel. Claudia was reticent to letting somebody else, even God, to run her life, for she had grown up depending on herself.

She entered into a time of discipleship with Coach Duber and four other players.



Coach Claudia, on the left, with one of her teams

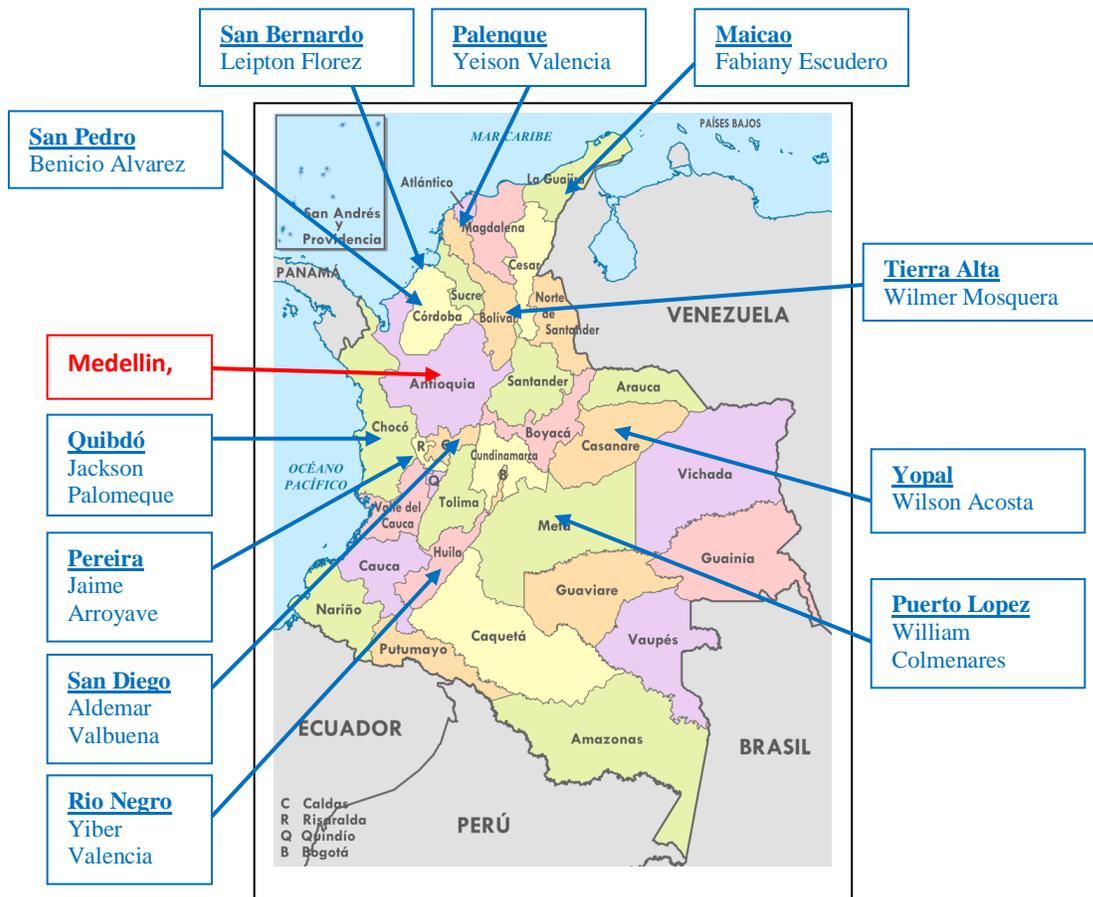
Then, she participated in a three-day retreat organized by the CUSC. She points out that the message of the speaker in that retreat resonated with her, and she finally was able to give up her life to Christ. She shares that it was then that she could fully have peace and joy in her life.

Today Claudia continues the work that Coach Duber started in Vallejuelos. She is our coach there, shares the Gospel and ministers to a very needed population. The kids look up to her, after all, she knows, more than anybody, what it means to be displaced.



Duber and Claudia

HAVE YOU BEEN PRAYING FOR OUR STAFF? I HOPE SO! Please add to your list these areas and personnel of Colombia where we also have sports programs.



Should you want to give to our ministry, please send your gift to:
OMS, %Project 460830, P.O. Box 1648, Monument, CO 80132-1648, or via the web at: www.onemissionsociety.org/express-give and type in **460830** for the project number and follow the online prompts.