

# Meet Byron!

Hi, my name is Byron! I am 11 years old. I live in Guadalupe de San Jose, the capital city of Costa Rica, which is in Central America. Because there is not a good trash system in the city, San Jose is covered in garbage. The valley where I live, though, is filled with beautiful, colorful flowers and plants. *What kinds of plants grow where you live?*

My aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, and immediate family all live on one plot of land. I live in the same house as my mom, dad, and two older sisters, and my older brother lives in Germany. Our house is close to a mountain and is also near the last bus stop in and out of San Jose. We own two dogs and a few chickens. *Do you own any animals?* We have running water, and to heat the shower, we turn on an electric heater. I am close with my family, and most people here spend lots of time with their families. We also host students from the United States who come to experience the culture of Costa Rica and learn Spanish, the main language. At home I help my Mom clean the house and take out the trash. I love to help her in the kitchen and hope to be a pastry chef one day! *What do you want to be when you grow up?*



Families in Costa Rica eat a dish called gallo pinto, which is a mixture of day-old rice, black beans, cilantro, and Costa Rican salsa called salsa lizano. Most people eat this dish at least once a day—and sometimes for every meal! Chicken and beef are commonly eaten with gallo pinto. Plantains, which look like large bananas, are eaten raw, fried, or baked. For dessert, we eat rice pudding. *What do you eat for dessert?*

Most of my friends and I go to school regularly. We get there by the public bus and pay about a dollar a day to ride it. We study math, science, history, art, music, Spanish, and English! It is similar to the schools in the United States. My favorite sport to play is soccer—I play it every chance I get! Soccer is really popular in Costa Rica and we often watch games on TV. *What sports do you play?*

Let me teach you a few phrases in Spanish! To say “hello,” you say, “hola.” “Adios” means “goodbye,” “gracias” means “thank you,” and “pura vida” generally means, “life is good.”

On Sundays my mom goes to church, but my dad, uncles, and I play soccer. Many people here are Catholic, and we are free to meet for church. *What church do you go to?*



Even though Costa Rica is one of the most well off countries in Central America, money is still tight and jobs are becoming hard to come by. Please pray that Byron’s parents will be able to keep their jobs and that hurting families would be comforted by God in difficult times. There are many non-profit organizations in Costa Rica, including World Vision. Please pray that they will have a great spiritual impact in Costa Rica and that Byron will have the courage to speak about God to his friends and family who do not know Jesus.

## Kid Close-Up

