

A VISION OF HELPING ORPHANS – A LONG AWAITED ANNOUNCEMENT

The abandoned children in Guatemala weigh heavily on the hearts and minds of many Impact Ministries staff. It is estimated that there are between 360,000 and 370,000 orphans in Guatemala.

Many of our supporters who have travelled to Guatemala have come face-to-face with the issue of abandoned children. Team members visiting the hospital in Coban, often encounter children left by parents. Holding one these children in your arms is difficult, but even more difficult is giving them back knowing that there is no parent or home waiting for them.

For several years, Ministerios Impacto staff, together with the Rio de Vida Church, has been asking the Lord what our role in caring for orphans might be. Two years ago, a committee of individuals from Guatemala and Canada began the process of planning an orphanage as an outreach of Impact Ministries.

This past fall, the International Council of Impact Ministries officially approved development of an orphanage project in Tactic!

One of the steps towards development of an orphanage has been that Impact Ministries was chosen, out of hundreds of missions organizations, to participate in a learning tour of self-sustaining orphanages in Africa. We are extremely grateful for the financial gift from an anonymous donor that allows our Field Directors, Les and Rita Peters, to participate in this opportunity.

It is with excitement and joy we venture into this endeavour! As recorded in James 1:27, a biblical mandate of the church is to care for widows and orphans. Please be in prayer with us as we begin the process of legal registration, fund raising, and construction to initiate this project.



Upcoming Opportunities with Impact Ministries

Short-Term Mission Trips

Open Team July 25 - August 4, 2014

This is an opportunity for anyone who is interested in serving in Guatemala, but doesn't have enough people to form their own team. You are invited to join our Open Team and participate in children's ministry, construction, home visits, and other cultural experiences. For more information, or to sign-up, please contact Candy or Tim Weaver at tweaver@impactminusa.org.

Child Sponsorship Team August 14 - 23, 2014

This trip is designed for individuals sponsoring a child. For more information, or to sign-up, please contact Martha or Reuben Sawatzky at rmsawatzky5@gmail.com.

Seniors Trip September 2-12, 2014

This trip is designed for the young at heart, but accepting of the realities of aging! This trip is open to individuals from across Canada, both those who have never visited Tactic, Guatemala, and those that have travelled there in the past. Team members will work alongside the staff of Impact Ministries and participate in a number of community outreach projects and cultural activities. For more information, or to sign-up, please contact Linda or Harm Mulder at lmulder@telus.net.

VIDA NUEVA SCHOOL OPENING

In our December newsletter, you read the exciting story of how Impact Ministries was invited to build a school in the village of Villa Nueva. This community, like many in rural Guatemala, had no school, no church, and was steeped in polytheistic beliefs and witchcraft.

Upon learning that the first priority of an Impact Ministries school would be to teach the students to love God and know His Word, and that academic training would take second place, the community responded by declaring that if we sent someone to teach them, they would all become Christians! It was obvious that the people of this community were aware of their spiritual need, and were ripe for the Gospel.

On January 9th, the Vida Nueva school was officially dedicated.

When the school-year began, 45 children were registered in Kindergarten through Grade Two, and 35 older children were signed up for an after-school program. One of the evangelism strategies of the Vida schools is to invite parents to participate in a cell group hosted by members of the Rio de Vida Church. As you will read later in this newsletter, the level of participation grew significantly through the first few weeks of school operation. Victor Toc, the director at Vida Nueva, reports that the people "are honest about their troubles, they are asking questions, and they are coming faithfully each week."

The school building has been constructed, children have begun attending classes, and the glory of God is being announced in Villa Nueva. Please pray for the Lord's continued blessing on the teachers and staff as they witness to the children and parents of this precious community!



SEEDS OF TOMORROW GREENHOUSE UPDATE

In the first weeks that we began using the Seeds of Tomorrow greenhouse to produce vegetable plants, we could not believe the amazing gift that God had given us. Through experimentation, we now are producing the best cabbage in Tactic! At the moment we have about 74,000 cabbage plants and have already been able to harvest 20,000. We will be harvesting another 30,000 shortly, with plans to grow 10,000 cabbages weekly. Thanks to God we found a buyer for 6,000 cabbages weekly and we trust that God will continue to provide.

With other vegetables, we are still learning to take into account the climate and temperatures of this area. We grow Swiss chard, cabbage, beets, peppers, tomatoes, onions, carrots, peas and beans for use in our school kitchens. Planted in our field right now we have at least 50,000 carrots plants, 14,700 Swiss chard plants, and 25,000 beet and other vegetable plants.

From our tomatoes we are currently harvesting between six and seven pounds of fruit per plant, and are working toward 15 to 18 pounds per plant. With God's help and more experimentation, we expect to reach this goal soon.

- Edgar Suc



IGLESIA RIO DE VIDA (RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH)

We are so thankful to the Lord for what He is doing in our congregation. Our church has been growing and we now have about 350 individuals that form the Chamché congregation, 120 the Purulhá congregation and 75 the Mochán congregation. Our desire is to be one congregation, so every six weeks we all come together for a Celebration Sunday.

We began the new year with 17 cell groups in our three congregations. The cell groups are fundamental to our church, as they are the place where the brothers and sisters open their hearts, share, and grow spiritually. Our goal is to double the number of cell groups this year.

The opening of our newest school in Villa Nueva has been a catalyst for cell group growth. In its first week of being open, a cell group of 25 individuals was formed. In the second and third week they became a cell group of 50! The group has now split into 2 cell groups to accommodate the different languages - one Spanish and the other Kekchi. There are now 18 cell groups in total including the the two in Vida Nueva.

We are a church in which God is using young people as leaders, who are called to evangelize, create an environment of worship, and



will disciple and train new believers. This year we established a leadership group over each congregation. These leaders organize the activities for men's meetings, ladies' meetings, meetings for married couples, and youth group meetings.

Our goal as a church is:

- New believers
- Lives restored to God's order
- Healing for each church member of their

past wounds and failures

- Lives lived in victory
- Christ's character growing in each brother and sister
- Disciples of Christ taking places of leadership
- The brotherhood evangelizing their neighbours, relatives and community



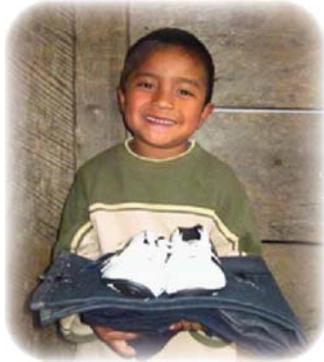
Recently, a new brother has chosen to become a part of our church. He has held an authoritative position in the Ministry of Education, and in the past has openly fought against our schools. Now he is faithful in attending church each Sunday, and is opening his heart to the Lord. God is a god of miracles, and we are so thrilled to be a part of His work.

- Hector Beb

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

We currently have 1501 students enrolled in our school and after school programs; 279 of these are new students this school year! Thank-you to those of you who support these children through sponsorship; you are a HUGE blessing! At the same time, we do need more sponsors. Please pray that individuals will come forward and agree to become sponsors so that all the children will experience this blessing.

- Ruth Peters de Dubon



This little boy was the very first child to receive a special gift from his sponsor in our new Vida Nueva school!



Left: This little girl from our Chamché afternoon school is so happy to receive this great blessing from her sponsor.

Right: This little girl from the Chamché morning school can't stop smiling at the wonderful surprise she received this day from her sponsor.



STORIES OF POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

Through donations to the Post-Secondary Education Fund, Impact Ministries is able to support High School graduates and Vida school teachers who demonstrate a desire to provide leadership for the people of their community through post-secondary studies. Here are some of their stories.

Doris Cardona Guevara

Doris has been a blessing to Impactos Ministerios for several years. After accepting the Lord in a Rio de Vida church service, she became a school secretary and has worked in several different Vida schools. Presently, Doris serves as the secretary to the Junior and Senior High school in Chijacorral.

Doris had a desire to study Law at university. In her words, "the idea of studying legal science and be able to contribute to improvements in the lives of people in need of protection is a thrill for me". With sponsorship from Impact Ministries, Doris was able to pursue the desire of her heart, and is very close to completing her studies and beginning a new career. Doris intends to use her gifts and training to serve the Lord within Impact Ministries.



Ingrid Janneth Lem Jom

Ingrid grew up in our Vida schools, starting in primary grades. Upon graduating from Junior High, she chose to follow a teaching career. Currently she is the Vice-Principal of the Junior and Senior High school in Chijacorral. Ingrid's ability to counsel and pray for the high school girls has been a great benefit to the program.

A few years ago, Ingrid shared her desire to study Law. With sponsorship from Impact Ministries, Ingrid studies on weekends at a local university to fulfill her dream. Ingrid says, "I know that God is taking my life and transforming it and He is guiding me to where He wants me to walk." Ingrid is doing well in her studies and is very close to completion.



Wilson Alexander Chun Feucht

Wilson came to Impact Ministries after a number of years of working in the banking world in the city of Coban. Wilson accepted a large wage cut to fulfill his longing to serve the Lord fulltime. Wilson was a teacher for several years, is currently our High school principal.

Wilson also heads up the River of Life Church's School of Worship, and is studying at the National Conservatory of Music. Through the Conservatory, Wilson is learning to play the bass guitar, and has classes in choir, harmony, music history and music theory. Wilson says, "Since I was small, I felt myself drawn to music, and I believe that God put this attraction into me because He wants to use my life. God has allowed me to serve in the worship ministry and bless His name through music. I think that there is no greater pleasure than to give my life to the service of the Lord."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Double Your Donation Update

Through the Double Your Donation campaign, Impact Ministries was blessed in the amount of \$61,476. With the help of a generous supporter, these funds will be doubled-up to almost \$123,000 that will be used for constructing the first phase of a new school. Thank-you to each of you that participated and supported the opportunity to provide a Christian education to the children of Guatemala!



Online Sponsorship Correspondence

We want to invite all of our child sponsors to try out a new application on our website that enables sponsors to digitally write to their sponsor child. Using this application, sponsors can easily type a letter, or upload one that has already been completed. As well, the application can be used to upload an accompanying picture.

The application is accessed through the Impact Ministries website Get Involved/Child Sponsorship/Write Your Child Today. All that is needed to get started is a sponsor child's ID number, a current email address, and a few words of encouragement to share!

After you have tried the application, tell us about your experience by emailing Annette Delbridge at child@impactministries.ca or by phone at 250-434-4350.

Planned Giving

Have you considered making a legacy gift to Impact Ministries? It's easy to make plans for a deferred gift or to leave a bequest as a component of your will or estate planning. As well, consider making a current gift as a memorial or tribute in honour of someone special or a special occasion.

For more information, or to make your intentions known, please contact the Impact Ministries Canadian Office at 250-434-4350 or by emailing Darryn Werth at darryn@impactministries.ca.

Internet Explorer 11 Issues

Our apologies to Internet Explorer 11 users. It has come to our attention that the Impact Ministries website does not format well when being accessed using IE11. We are in the process of renewing our website with a more responsive format that will work with IE11 as well as making it mobile friendly. In the mean time, please continue accessing our website using another browser if you are able. Thank-you for your patience.



Need for New & Nearly New Computers

Because of the unstable power supply at many of our schools, we have had several of our student computers become inoperable. We are working on different solutions to the problem, but in the mean time, we are in need of up to 50 new or nearly new computers. If you are part of a group/organization that is in the process of refreshing its computers, and would be interested in donating to this cause, here are the specs for the systems that are most useful for our students:

HP or Lenovo computers with 2.33 to 3.0 GHZ processors, 2 – 4 GB of RAM, 80 – 160 GB hard drives, complete with DVD-RW and Windows Vista Business. The most useful displays are 17" or 19" LCD monitors from Acer or HP.

Alternatively, you can donate funds individually or gather together a group that would be interested in donating towards the purchase of computers in Guatemala. All donors will be provided a tax receipt for their gift.

Upcoming Scheduled Short-Term Missions Teams

May 1-10 - Tony Tom Medical Team
May 10-20 - Foothills Alliance Church
May 23-June 1 - Cedar Park
June 14-24 - Chris Brandenburg Medical Team
June 26-July 5 - Kamloops Evangelical Free Church

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If you are on Facebook, you can join the "Impact Ministries Guatemala" group and connect with over 400 friends of Impact Ministries. Share your photos and stories with others, and stay connected to Impact Ministries!

Impact Ministries invites you to join our e-newsletter. If you would like to receive periodic news and updates via e-mail please visit <http://subscribe.impactministries.ca> to add your address to our list.