

MIRACLE IN PURULHÁ

Six years ago the Mayor of Purulhá, along with one of his assistants came to visit Rita at the Vida School office. They had seen what was happening in the Vida schools in the Tactic area and were inquiring about how they could have a Vida school in Purulhá as well.

As Rita explained our goals and the way in which we begin working in a community, they responded by offering a temporary facility where we could begin our program....free rent for two years! It was amazing, but they went on, "We will give you a piece of land as a gift if you will build a school like you have done in Tactic". We were astounded at God's favour and at the great opportunity.

Guatemala is a developing country....unstable in many ways. In 2007 the political landscape in Purulhá changed. The new mayor was clearly against the evangelical pastors, against the

churches and he certainly was against Impact Ministries. He openly declared that it had been a mistake to give land to Impact Ministries and he was going to expropriate it. At one point, he moved heavy equipment next to the school and threatened to "demolish the buildings".

As the press got hold of the story, the mayor became more emphatic. We prayed, the parents rallied behind the ministry and we endured many months in a tense "stand-off". We prayed for the Lord to draw souls to himself through this situation. We fully realized that throughout history, authorities and powers often aligned their forces against God. Our part was to be faithful, to respond with grace, and to pray for the mayor and his salvation. We waited for the Lord to respond. Last month, the response came! With new elections, this mayor was removed from office. He was no longer a threat!

We made an appointment to visit the new mayor. He greeted me by name as we entered his office. "Where had we met before?" Likely he saw the question in my eyes. He said, "Six years ago I was part of the original delegation to your wife's office asking for an Impact Ministries school in Purulhá."

He went on to say; "We so appreciate what you are doing for our families and for our children. We want a good relationship with you and we will fix this problem...permanently."

In our Purulhá School we now have strong support from our families. We have a long waiting list of parents who would love to have their children in our school....but we are full. People are being saved and we are witnessing the "birth of a new church congregation". Our staff in Purulhá have the certainty that "God is with us!"

Opposition and trials are the seedbed of faith. Persecution, historically, has caused the church to become true and strong. Our inability to resolve problems forces us to rest in the hands of God. This is the best place to be....and it is what HE wanted from the beginning. We are amazed and we give him praise!



From Left to Right: Les Peters, Mayor, Hector Beb and Julio Lem

DOUBLE MY DONATION PLAN

A matching program has been established for the following projects:

- Chapel in Purulhá
- Chapel in Mochán
- Kitchen & dining area in Chijacorral
- Infrastructure in Chijacorral to eliminate future flooding damage

Temporary chapel areas currently being used in Purulhá and Mochán were intended as dining areas for the student's breakfast program, and will be unable to handle the

student population in both schools in January 2012.

Also, church plants in both Purulhá and Mochán, have 65-75 individuals faithfully attending services. With the building of proper facilities, we will be able to formalize these church plants and increase the number of attendees.

In Chijacorral, we are out of classroom space. By building a permanent kitchen, the area now being utilized would revert back to being

used as a classroom. The dining area would serve as an interim chapel, until a permanent chapel can be built in the next few years.

Also, at Chijacorral, a recent storm dumped so much water that the system set up to take the water away could not handle the run-off. The system needs to be upgraded so that future flood damage will be minimized.

Every dollar donated, up to \$40,000, will be matched, and allow con-

UPCOMING SHORT TERM MISSION TEAMS

Linden Christian School
Winnipeg MB (Feb 1 - 10)

Estevan
Estevan SK (Feb 10 - 20)

Kamloops Christian School
Kamloops BC (Mar 5 - 15)

Living Waters Christian Academy
Spruce Grove AB (Mar 17 - 27)

Bearspaw Christian School
Calgary AB (Mar 27 - Apr 5)

Regina Christian School
Regina SK (Apr 4 - 14)

Southwest Community Church
Kamloops BC (Jul 2 - 11)

Ev Free Merritt
Merritt BC (Jul 11 - 21)

Grace Baptist
Hope BC (Jul 21 - 31)

East Parkland
Stony Plain AB (Jul 30 - Aug 8)

Gateway
Kamloops BC (Aug 8 - 18)

Sherbrooke
Vancouver BC (Jul 2 - 11)

Child Sponsor Team
(Aug 28 - Sept 6)

Evelyn Plett Medical
Vancouver BC (Sept 16 - 25)

Stony Plain Alliance
Stony Plain AB (Sept 25 - Oct 5)

Kamloops Alliance
Kamloops BC (Oct 5 - 16)

struction on all four projects to begin right away! With your help, if we raise more than needed for these projects, the additional funds will be used to begin building six additional classrooms at Chijacorral and another classroom at Purulhá. Please prayerfully consider donating and assisting in the growth of our school facilities for the upcoming school year.

Graduation - Senior High

The Guatemalan education system has students making their career choices at the end of their Grade 10 year. Schools that are certified to offer an additional two to three year "Diversificado" program are also authorized to issue certificates & licenses related to the career and diplomas that permit further study at the university level. Two years ago, Impact Ministries Vida Senior High was founded and became authorized to teach a university entrance program with a major in agriculture. This week, we had our first eight graduates. What a thrill for them, for their families and for the Impact

Ministries staff. Among the indigenous people of Guatemala, where the people average 1.9 years of formal schooling, graduating from a "Diversificado" program is an outstanding achievement.

It is a further blessing and honour to have seven of these graduates express interest in continuing on with Impact Ministries.

"You taught us to serve...I want to serve with Impact Ministries."

"I feel the Lord calling me to live fully for Him...I don't want anything else"

"In the same way the staff of the Vida schools helped me; I now want the Lord to use me to help others"



Graduation - Junior High



In some Guatemalan mountain villages, the dropout rate between grade one and two is 50%. Illiterate parents often do not see the value of education. When a village is without a school, the prospects for the next generation are bleak. Those that do have a school, often only provide education to the 7th grade. If students coming out of these schools wish to continue their education they must travel long distances to a community with a Junior High school. Often these distances make the daily travel back and forth very difficult.

Graduation from Junior High (equivalent to a North American grade 10) becomes a truly significant accom-

plishment.

In 2000, the Vida School (then called Beerseba) had their first Junior High graduating class. Three students reached this goal and it seemed very amazing. Now, eleven years later, we had the honour of seeing 46 grade ten graduates cross the stage to receive their diplomas.

These students in our 12th Graduating Class are proud of their academic accomplishments, but more importantly, they have an understanding of the Lord's calling on their lives. One third of our current teaching staff in our six schools are former Vida School graduates. They have experienced the power of God's grace and they are giving their lives away.

Poverty and Illiteracy

Guatemala has one of the highest illiteracy rates and one of the lowest school enrollment rates in Latin America. Despite the Government's efforts, many children still do not have



access to a good primary education. These problems are particularly acute in rural areas with high indigenous populations, like those around Tactic.

Seventy-Six percent of indigenous people in Guatemala live in poverty and about 16 percent live in extreme poverty. Guatemala's social indicators such as education and health outcomes fall below those of countries with lower per-capita incomes. For instance, the average schooling of the adult population in Guatemala is 5.4 years and just 1.9 years for the indigenous population. Health outcomes such as life expectancy and infant and maternal mortality rates are also weak compared to those of other middle-income countries, and malnutrition rates among children are particularly worrisome.



Rio de Vida Church

Reaching the men of the community

The men's group in the Rio de Vida (River of Life) Church is active and growing. Each year, the evangelistic outreach is well attended by men, who otherwise would never attend a church. They come to hear testimonies and special music. The spiritual hunger is evident and the harvest is ripe.

A small group of believers meeting for prayer in the Peters' living room in 2000 has now become a vibrant and thriving church family. We are so grateful for the opportunity to be part of this wonderful moving of God's Spirit.



IMPACT MINISTRIES SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TEAMS



Big River Evangelical Free Church, Big River SK (Aug 31-Sept 11)



Tim & Candy Weaver,
Vange Wiens
(Sept 11-22)



Kamloops Alliance Church,
Kamloops BC (Oct 3-14)



Peterborough, ON
(Sept 22 - Oct 3)



Harvest Bible Chapel, Iowa
(Oct 14-24)

Are you interested in bringing a Short-Term Mission Team group to Guatemala?

We would LOVE to have you!

For booking your team in 2012 & 2013 please contact Bev Crozier teams@impactministries.ca for more information. Team information is posted on our website www.impactministries.ca

If you are interested in serving as Guest House Hosts, please visit the Impact website and check out "job opportunities".

Wedding in Purulhá



For over a year the Purulhá cell group has been meeting on Sunday mornings in the Purulhá Vida Christian School. Their worship service, thought-provoking message, lively children's activity and interesting Bible Study give it a sense that a church is being planted. Recently, the Rio de Vida Church from Tactic joined the Purulhá cell group and witnessed three of their faithful couples make their marriage vows in true wedding ceremony style. Each couple had lived together for over ten years, which was evidenced by the numerous children surrounding them that day. About two hundred friends and family gathered and in a festive ambiance, with bright floral arrangements, a carpet of pine needles, beautiful worship music and expectant hearts, as these three man-woman pairs made their way down the aisle. Heaven rejoiced, the angels sang, and God's divinely established order was being ushered in.

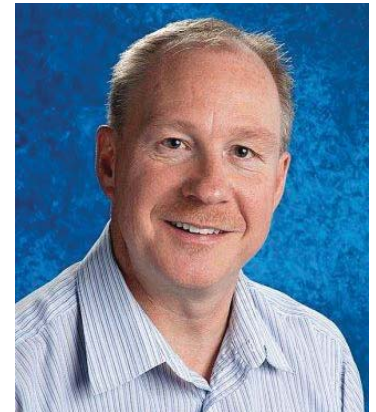


Promotions & Ministry Development

We would like to introduce Darryn Werth, who has accepted the role of Promotions & Ministry Development with Impact Ministries Canada. Darryn, his

wife Bobbie, and their four children live in Calgary, AB. Darryn is a former educator, and has led several youth teams on short-term missions to Tactic. We are

thankful for God's direction in his life and his acceptance of the opportunity to partner with us in expanding the ministry.



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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!



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