

ELVIN AND ISAIAS - POST SECONDARY NURSING STUDENTS

The Impact Ministries Medical Clinic was constructed on the Chijacorral property five years ago. This single medical clinic serves the Impact Ministries staff and students, their families, the families of Rio de Vida Church and sometimes even the greater community. In short, this clinic's outreach program serves approximately 8,000 -10,000 people with many differing health concerns and needs. Needless to say, our humble medical clinic has a big job. It's an incredible blessing to have a number of medical and dental teams traveling to our clinic every year to help support the medical needs of our community. If our teachers are not well, the entire class suffers. If our pastors are not well, the church community suffers. If our students are not well, they cannot benefit from our programs. Keeping our staff, students and families healthy is of great concern, and without permanent, trained medical personnel available at the clinic, often, unfortunately, the clinic remains empty until the next medical or dental team arrives.

In the Lord's great provision, He has raised up two young men in our community with a passion to study nursing and serve full time in our clinic! How incredible it would be to have the clinic open every day on a regular basis to tend to the basic health needs of our people! When medical/dental teams come and initiate treatments, how helpful it would be to have continuity of care and the opportunity to follow up with these patients and families!

Isaias, one of these men, has been receiving financial support through

the Post-Secondary Education Fund. Without this support, he would not have the financial means to attend nursing school. The other young man, Elvin, is one of six children who live very far up in the mountains. His passion to care for his community and serve them medically is so powerful that he and his brothers rent land to grow tomatoes. He sells these tomatoes and uses a portion of this income to pay for his nursing studies. To study nursing in Guatemala takes six years. Elvin is very close to completing his studies, but unfortunately in the past two years, he has had to put his studies on hold due to two serious illnesses in the family. As a result of these illnesses, one brother was paralyzed, while the other has been diagnosed with a tumor in his head. Elvin is currently applying for the Impact Ministries Vida Post-Secondary Education Fund so that he may continue his studies.

Donations to the Post-Secondary Education Fund will help support 38 of our future leaders pursue their God-given dreams.



Isaias

Elvin

CANADIAN OFFICE NEWS



We are so thrilled to announce that Don and Sandra Stephenson have accepted the position as Canadian Operations Manager for Impact Ministries and will be transitioning into this work over the next few months. They have been involved with Impact Ministries since 2007. They first came to Tactic as chaperones with the Bearspaw Christian School from Calgary and then became more and more involved, helping, planning and doing much of the footwork for the orphanage that Impact will be establishing in Guatemala. They continue to serve on the Orphanage Committee.

We are thankful to God for choosing them for this exciting new dimension of involvement with Impact. They will continue to live in Calgary and give support to the Canadian office in Kamloops. Also, for the time being, Don will continue on with Bearspaw Christian School, with Sandra taking a larger portion of this new role.

Les & Rita Peters

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If you are on Facebook, you can join the "Impact Ministries Guatemala" group and connect with over 700 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.



To train Guatemalans for leadership by teaching Biblical principles in such a way that they become integrated into their lives and effect spiritual change in their society and to impact North American Christians for World missions.

GOD'S PROVISION THROUGH THE MEDICAL & DENTAL CLINIC

BY CHRISTY LEW

The year 2015 has already been an important year for our humble little clinic in Chijacorral! We are ecstatic to have Dr. Stephen Wat and his family, from Edmonton, with us for the duration of the school year. Several short-term medical and dental teams from all over Canada and the United States have also provided support for the clinic.

We've started off the year welcoming back, from Vancouver, Dr. Tony Tom, Medical Director of Impact Ministries, to run clinics for Impact's staff, students, and their families. At the same time, for a three week period, we were immensely blessed that Dr. Chantelle Champagne, from Edmonton, shared her expertise in pediatrics, attended to patients in the clinic, and gave public health talks. We were also privileged to have Dr. Cathie Olson and Vern Cassell, also from Edmonton, tend to the dental concerns of our students, and teach oral health.

As a clinic, our goal is to provide health care for the staff, students, families, church, and community of our ministry, to care holistically for their well-being. Our clinic staff consists of two Guatemalan nurses-in-training who work alongside short-term medical and dental teams who arrive during the year.

Our work involves incredible variety including: treating the common cold, treating oral abscesses, investigating potential heart issues in children, maintaining uncontrolled diabetes in rural settings, and treating acute asthma patients at the point of death. We are constantly reminded of the tremendous need before us, the scope of which can be daunting. Statistics of poverty, violence, malnutrition, domestic dysfunction, and illiteracy can be overwhelming...but, this should not leave us paralyzed in inaction.

The power of a listening ear can be surprising! Patients come in with what may appear, at first glance, to be a simple complaint, only to begin to reveal deeper issues at play. The social, economic, familial, psychological, emotional, and spiritual aspects of the story may be overlooked in a basic physical assessment, but these factors play an integral part in our lives as a whole. It is here where we discover our shared humanity in the common brokenness that afflicts all of fallen creation.

For this, we turn to our only Guide, Jesus. Wherever He went, He emanated healing power, bringing wholeness and restoration to those He encountered - both physically and spiritually. The two parts are hand-in-hand, and the more we tend to the broken, beautiful people of Guatemala, the more we realize how intimately entwined they are. In our clinic, we have the incredible privilege of participating in this work, and we would not trade it for the world! Come join us!

Christy has served as a field worker in Tactic for several years and is the Coordinator of the Medical Clinic.



Dr. Chantelle Champagne



Dr. Cathie Olson



# CHISAC II, ENGINEERING MINISTRIES &THE ORPHANAGE

ORPHANAGE STORY - SANDRA STEPHENSON

In 2009, while in Tactic, I sensed a compelling call on my life to help abandoned and orphaned babies. In the months and years to follow, God continued to speak to me through His Word and even through dreams, helping me understand his heart for the fatherless. Yet, how was I going to help orphans? For a few years I could not see how God was going to use me to reach orphans and yet this dream was growing ever stronger!

Then to our complete surprise, while in Tactic in 2012, my husband, Don, and I were urged to meet with Edgar and Shenyn, a young Guatemalan couple. God had also placed on their hearts a dream to help orphans! My heart was bursting with excitement as we sat with Edgar and Shenyn, sharing the dreams God had put on our hearts! And from that first meeting an orphanage committee in Tactic was formed, and has grown, and has met many times in planning and preparation for the orphanage! God is so good!

Fast forward to 2015:

CHISAC II  
God in his goodness, doubled the size of Impact’s Chisac property to 40 acres by providing land right beside the current site. We now have ample space to build a home for abandoned and orphaned children! Thank you to all the donors who made this possible! Your generosity is truly making a difference!

## SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT – SUSTAINABLE ELECTRICITY

Impact Ministries was privileged to have the Solar Energy team visit in February and install a 6 kW solar system that will provide electricity to the Chisac property. With electricity costs being so high in Guatemala, this solar system will allow Impact Ministries to reduce costs and will contribute to long term sustainability.



### ENGINEERING MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL TEAM

God miraculously opened the door for an Engineering Ministries (eMi) team to be in Tactic in February. On this team were Civil Engineers, a Structural Engineer, an Electrical Engineer, Architects, and surveyors giving of their expertise and preparing comprehensive plans for the orphanage. What a blessing it was to have the eMi team collaborate with the Orphanage Committee in Guatemala and plan together!

We now look forward to seeing the orphanage plans unfold as God provides. Through all of this, and years of praying, God made a way!



Engineering Ministries International Team

The generated solar electricity is first used on the Chisac site, directly reducing the amount of electricity required from the grid. At times when the solar system may be producing more electricity than the Chisac site requires, the surplus electricity is returned to the grid earning credits via the Guatemala electrical utility’s net-metering system. Thank you to the donors who provided the funding for this project.

Thank you to the team who installed this solar system!



Solar Energy Team

# THE FAITH OF A CHILD

BY ELAINE WAT

Seven year old Mynor, his mother and three year old sister were together in their quiet home. All of a sudden, their father violently burst through the door. He was angry, drunk and began abusing his family. Amidst shouts and cries the father raged, and his anger amplified. He took out a gun and shouted, “I’m going to kill all of you!” Little Mynor bravely stepped in front of his mother and younger sister in their defense. He cried out to his father and said, “Father! God has a plan for you! He has a purpose for your life!” In the midst of his tears, the little boy began to repeat to his father what he had learned in school from his teachers and principal. He shared all of the biblical principles and lessons he had learned each day for the past three years, while attending the Impact Ministries Purulha School. Miraculously, the father lowered the gun and left the home.

The next day, the mother of this young boy trekked 45 minutes to school along a narrow dirt path. In tears, she sat in Principal Jaime’s office at Purulha School, thanking him for allowing her child to attend Purulha Impact Ministries School. She stated what had happened in their home and how her son’s confidence and boldness in God, taught and instilled in him at this school, saved their family from a terrible fate. As little Mynor sat beside his mother and watched his mother cry out in great pain and suffering, he turned to her and said, “Mom, I will protect you for the rest of my life. When I grow up and have a wife, I will never treat her the way you have been treated.”

This young child, just seven years old, has incredible amounts of courage and faith. Why? Because deep in his heart he knows that when he stands before an abusive and angry father, when he stands before a gun pointed to his head, when he stands before any trials that will face him in his life, he never stands alone.

“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4

The child is learning to read, write, calculate, and explore Gods world. Most importantly, Mynor and many others, are discovering the greatest gift of all, the power of believing in our Lord Jesus Christ and how it can change lives - at home, in the community and in relationships. THIS is what will truly change the lives of the Guatemalan people. Education is a significant part this change, but the much larger element is the life changing power of Jesus Christ in these young children building up a strong foundation to support them throughout their entire lives. It is the teachers and principals in the Impact Ministries schools who work tirelessly every single day, not solely teaching these children, but also being a shepherd and pastor to them.

The staff arrive at 7am, welcoming the children into school and worshipping the Lord together in song. They are committed to visiting each and every child’s home throughout the school year. Many of these young teachers do not own a mode of transportation, so they often walk up dirt paths high into the mountains to do these home visits.

Our Vida school teachers are dedicated to their students because they have a deep passion and belief in what they do. Although at times it is a struggle, as many of the teachers have families of their own to support, they make the commitment to pastor their little congregation every day in the classroom. In Mynor’s case, it saved his life and those of his family.

Impact Ministries’ mission statement is to train Guatemalans for leadership by teaching biblical principles in such a way that they become integrated in their lives and effect spiritual change in their society. After 15 years of working the ripe soil, the fruit is showing. Many of these teachers are past Impact Ministries students, previous sponsor children who have grown up loving the Lord, believing and experiencing the power of Jesus Christ in their own lives, and now as adults they are passionately teaching the next generation.

Impact Ministries has begun a program called the Vida Teachers Support Fund to help these young teachers and their families further their education, and theological knowledge, and to grow in this role of training up future leaders. What a blessing it is to see past students dedicating their lives in leadership to affect their society by bringing the light of the Word of Jesus Christ into these young lives.

*Steve and Elaine Wat are serving as field workers in Tactic for 10 months. Steve is serving in the medical clinic, and Elaine in photography and communications.*

