



## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

My name is Mario David Lopez and I am thankful for the opportunity to tell you how God's hand has led me to where I am today. When I was just eight days old, my father was travelling home from Guatemala City to see me for the very first time. On the way, he was robbed, brutally assaulted, and died. I never did meet him. This left my mother as a jobless and depressed single parent. However, the Lord did not forsake us. God's powerful hand helped my mother find a job at which she worked diligently and excelled. In spite of her continuous depression, she provided all of the essentials we needed, including an education for me.

*Mario David serves with Impact Ministries as a worship leader, teacher and bus driver.*

As a fatherless, school-aged child, I faced many challenges. I walked to school alone, even when I was in first grade and sometimes with only a cup of coffee in my stomach. We often had no food. I also did not have money to buy any food and would often spend the entire day at school without eating anything.

It was during sixth grade that I had a teacher who first spoke with me about the Bible and told me what God desires for each of our lives. The following year I gave my heart to Him and came to know Him personally.

As I began to learn to follow the ways of the Lord, I also worked, training daily, toward fulfilling my dream of becoming a professional soccer player. At the age of fifteen I was given the opportunity to play on a team; however, I could not afford to travel to the city of Cobán for training. As I was also becoming careless with my studies, my mother decided that I was no longer allowed to play soccer. She wanted me to focus on school. This filled me with depression for months; I was in much anguish that I could no longer play soccer. Although I continued to attend church, my heart was no longer in it and I didn't truly see the point of being a Christian. However, God was about to show me something that I could never have imagined!

At the church that I attended, there was a piano that was never played. Seeing my interest, the pastor asked me if I wanted to learn to play. He enrolled me for piano lessons. I soon began to discover that the Lord wanted to use me in a very special way. The Lord changed my desire for soccer into a longing for worship. Within merely six months, I was playing, singing and leading music at church! Soccer was set aside, and although I still enjoy playing the sport, I understand that it was not God's purpose for me. Perhaps soccer would have led to a life with worldly riches, but without the Lord, I would have had great emptiness in my heart.

I now work with Impact Ministries and it is so amazing to be able to worship the Lord every day at school. I can see the glory of the Lord in the children as He blesses each of them when we come together to worship during devotional times each morning.

I never dreamed that God would lift me from a deep and vile place to make me a worshipper of His name. The Bible says that He created us to give Him honor and glory and I thank God that I can serve Him in this way. *Translated by Eli Quiring.*



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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.

Editing for this newsletter by Liz Christensen and Susan Hawley



### Our Mission...

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, and to impact North American Christians for world missions.

NEWSLETTER

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We look back and testify whole-heartedly, that without God, we would never have been able to accomplish all that has been done through Impact Ministries in Guatemala.

Our many students are not only learning truth and coming into God's kingdom; they are also carrying the light of Jesus into their homes. As the parents of our students listen to their children relating lessons from God's Word, they too, become hungry and open to the Gospel. As a result, there are now eighteen home cell groups that make up three vibrant congregations. In turn, new believers are reaching out to spread God's light to others who still sit in darkness and despair.



We also give thanks that our healthcare program is growing by leaps and bounds providing great relief and support to hundreds of families in need. A state-of-the-art greenhouse which grows strong seedlings that subsequently supply the freshest of produce to feed delicious meals to all of our school children. Impact Ministries is blessed to be able to employ more than 180

people in areas of construction, agriculture, nutrition, medical, education and support staff. Best of all, almost half of our teaching staff consists of our very own school graduates.

Many of the young people who have chosen to remain after graduation are taking places of leadership to carry the vision of Impact Ministries forward. We are so thankful to the Lord for each one of them.



*Ingrid and Christy. Two Impact Ministries graduates who are now teaching at Chijacorral School.*

North American donors, short-term missions workers and child sponsors all provide the funds and encouragement we need to continue to put our hands to the plough.

The challenges are many and the need we have for God's wisdom is constant and great. As the Lord brings us to your mind, please lift us up in prayer. Our hearts' cry is that we would continue to be available to the Lord, with our eyes on Him, following where He leads, fulfilling His desires and constantly giving Him all honour and glory.

*By Rita Peters*



# SUPPORT A CLASS IMPACT MINISTRIES

Imagine waking up every day wondering how you will survive the struggle— to feed your family, to care for your sick child with no money to access a doctor, to battle the systemic poverty that crushes you at each and every turn? You know that the only way your children will escape this same cycle is through education and yet, you cannot possibly afford their schooling needs.



Imagine the excitement and hope when you hear that a new school is being established in your area that will not only provide academic education for your children, but also much, much more!! Through a minimal tuition fee or volunteer work, the poverty cycle will be broken, as your children receive a Christ-centered education, as well as nutritious meals, clothing and access to medical and dental care. How can this be?

Impact Ministries Vida schools provide a means for us to speak words of hope, life and love to those who are in turmoil and who feel that they have no hope and no future. These children, so hungry for the truth and the hope



that Jesus provides, rejoice as they encounter His love and grace. They bring the message of the Gospel back to their homes, spreading the Good News to their parents, relatives and friends. Through the witness of these young ones, entire communities are transformed by the love and mercy of Jesus as the Truth is proclaimed through Impact Ministries Vida schools.

Today, Impact Ministries is at an important crossroads. Over the course of fifteen years, the ministry has raised up the first generation of leaders in Alta and Baja Verapaz. We are awe-inspired as we contemplate how God has transformed the lives of our young leaders, who hear His calling into their lives as they pursue Him with their hearts and minds. Now, the time has come that we ask for your help to firm the foundation for the next fifteen years and beyond!



Our challenge is that we have an increasing gap between the income from sponsorship dollars and school program expenses. With ever increasing living costs for our staff and with the current demands placed on our ministry by new government regulations, our overall expenses have grown. We urge you, our sponsors and future supporters, to assist in closing this gap, thereby making our foundation a solid one upon which to build His Kingdom.

There are a variety of methods by which you can bless our students as they grow in Christ and receive a quality education.

For 50 dollars per month, you can support one class of an Impact Ministries School. Because of a generous donation to this project of \$80,000 in matching funds, each new donor of a 50 dollar monthly gift to the Impact Ministries' Support a Class Project will release an additional 400 dollars from this matching fund into the program. **Our initial goal is to secure our first 250 class supporters by December 31, 2015.**

If you are a recent or long-term sponsor and are prayerfully considering a deeper commitment, please consider our request. Our young people need you to join with us at this significant point in their lives to minister to Guatemala and beyond.

By Tim and Candy Weaver,  
Directors of Impact Ministries USA

## THOUGHTS FROM ELI

I was given the honour of being part of God's work through Impact Ministries in Guatemala. Because of this experience, my life will never be the same. While in Guatemala, I witnessed the profound effect that child sponsorship has on the lives of sponsored children, their families and their communities. I observed the incredible physical and spiritual impact that the clinic has on the lives of so many people. I was touched deeply by the genuine love that Impact teachers have for their students, and I was moved as I learned of the immense sacrifices that long-term missionaries have made, in saying 'yes' to God's calling on their lives to serve in a

different culture. I saw young people who have risen up in God's strength and found freedom, breaking generational chains. Individuals, families and entire communities are leaving behind their idols and witchcraft, and running into the loving arms of our Lord. Although I am no longer in Guatemala, I know that God continues to do incredible things there. This one thing is true: God has blessed Impact Ministries over the years and He is continuing to do so. Your prayers make a difference and your support truly counts.

*Elizabeth Quiring served as a translator for short term missions teams from January to July. She was an incredible blessing to the ministry, staff and teams! Thank you Eli for your joyful, servant heart! May God bless you richly in your studies! Les and Rita Peters*



"For the past 10 months Steve and Elaine and their three year old, Sam, have lived for others, serving in Tactic. Steve, a medical doctor, has brought our medical ministry to a new level. What a blessing Steve is in the continued development of our medical clinic! Elaine has taken countless photos and videos that capture the heart of the ministry. Their little boy, Sam, has blended right in and was instrumental in building pathways to relationships. Thank you Steve and Elaine and Sam!!!" *Les and Rita Peters*

### 2015 TEAMS

Child Sponsor, Regina Christian School, Bears paw Christian School, Living Waters Christian School, Kamloops Christian School, Regina Christian School Alumni, Anniversary Celebration Team, Belfast PEI Team, Crosspoint Community Church, Dr. Tony Tom Medical, Dr. Ian Sutanto Medical (ECCC), Edmonton Community Church, First Baptist PEI, Foothills Alliance Youth, Heidy Friesen Family, Wat /Cheung Family, Linden Christian School, Linden Christian School Teachers, Southwest Community Church, Stony Plain Alliance Youth, Vancouver Chinese Baptist Medical, Westpark Christian School, Cathie Olson Medical

**FIELD WORKERS** Liz Lendvay, Christy Lew, Gary Beharrell, Larry & Val Schmidt, Eli Quiring, Chantelle Champagne, Dr. Stephen & Elaine, Sandra Stephenson, Engineering Ministries International, Green Solar Energy Team, Trevor Christman, Denis & Eileen Nogue, Harm & Linda Mulder, Jorgen Nissen, Ben Chotka, Scott & Julie McLaren. *Thank you all!!*

## THANK YOU ELLERY & MARLENE PETERS!

We are grateful to the Lord for having brought Ellery & Marlene Peters to join us on staff with Impact Ministries these last 4 years. Ellery initially served as a consultant to the Impact Ministries Board of Directors as they developed a Board Policy Manual. He also assisted in charting out the long term goals and helped the board clarify steps to reaching the vision the Lord has given to the ministry.

Ellery and Marlene moved to Kamloops in 2010 and Ellery stepped into the role of Canadian Operations Manager. Marlene volunteered her time in assisting with teams, office tasks and events planning.

For me, it was special to work alongside of my brother. His areas of expertise and his gifting were a particular blessing to me at a critical time in the development of the ministry.

Ellery, thank you for the enthusiastic effort, the fervent dedication and the countless hours that have elevated the ministry to new places. We love you and appreciate you with a sincere heart. Les and Rita

*Note: This is not a farewell to Ellery and Marlene. They both continue to volunteer many hours in the Kamloops office and I expect the Lord will continue to use them in the ministry in significant ways. At the present they are assisting Don & Sandra Stephenson as they transition into the Canadian Operations role. We have an incredible team!!*



### Thank You for Choosing to Support a Class!

You can go to [www.impactministries.ca](http://www.impactministries.ca) to donate online or fill out the attached form and mail it to Impact Ministries head office with the pre-paid envelope.