

One Nameless Girl

by Gabriel Li

“We were led into the hospital nursery, which consisted of small newborn bassinets all around the edges of the room. Of the five infants present, we were directed in particular to one small girl in the corner. She had been abandoned by her mother, left with no name and no family at just three days old. Jaime picked her up and cradled her in his arms with the most tender and loving look I have seen in a man’s eyes. Brad placed his hand over the baby girl’s head, then over Jamie’s, whispering words to the only One who could help, our Living God. The cracked dam burst asunder, unleashing a deluge of tears.”



During the hospital visit of the Foothills Alliance men on their short-term mission trip, our hearts were broken by this little girl without a family or a name. Then we came home to news reports of a deadly fire that had broken out at a children’s home near Guatemala City, where more than two dozen



teenage girls had perished. This hit too close to home for me, and I was in both anguish and anger. I could not fathom this baby girl growing up in a place like that: overcrowded, loveless, with poor conditions and so rampant with abuse that a resident, in desperation, set fire to a mattress. I do not want this child living where death, both physical and spiritual, stalks the land. I want for her to be free and protected by God. Truly, a mighty conflict is in progress.

That is why my prayers go out for the Fountain of Life Children’s Home in Tactic. The completion of the infant home for the first phase draws near. In 2015, a youth team from our church broke ground. Now the concrete structure is up, with finishings and furnishings about to be installed. I have full faith that the Lord will use this place to house many abandoned babies like the one we held at the hospital. Here, the much-needed love and hope of Christ will be given in abundance. Pray for every phase of this God-ordained project, and for the abandoned children throughout Guatemala. Your prayers are the most powerful weapon from God. The Lord will do amazing things for the children and for that little nameless girl, as surely as the sun will rise with the dawn.



Teams

Visiting the Cobán Hospital is part of most Impact Ministries short-term mission trips. Want your own chance to hug and pray for these children? Check out www.impactministries.ca/teams.



Did you know that the Fountain of Life Children’s Home will be built in three phases?

Phase One includes:

- Infant house
- Staff housing
- Administrative offices
- Fencing

Praise God, we are well on our way to completion of this first phase! Thank you for your year-end gifts that have made this possible! The infant home is constructed, the roof and floors are in, and the furnishings will be made soon. Construction of the staff and volunteer housing is progressing well. Please pray for children who will be cared for in the Fountain of Life Children’s Home.

Health in Action



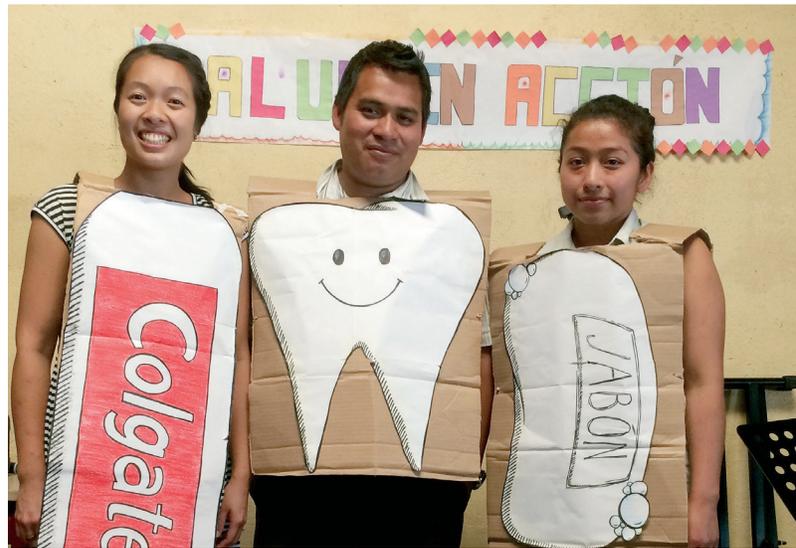
The Health in Action program that was launched in Vida Chicoy School last year has been so effective that we've now implemented it at Vida Mochan, with plans to expand to Vida Purulhá – and it's making an impact!

Maria José, a teacher from Vida Chicoy, explains, "This program has been a blessing to teachers, students, and families. As a teacher, I have been able to observe this habit in the children, their attendance at school, less stomach sicknesses, less cavities, etc., which were seen previously." Teacher Gesler Gudiel concurs, "Hand washing and tooth brushing have come to combat upset stomachs and reduce tooth decay. This has allowed students to attend classes daily without falling behind in their academic preparation."

"Washing my hands has benefited me a lot because I no longer have an upset stomach," says Grade 7 student, Breydi, adding, "these were frequent before when I didn't wash my hands before eating. I practice brushing my teeth daily so that my teeth won't hurt, like before when I didn't brush correctly."

"As the name of the project says – Salud en Acción (Health in Action) - we need to be actively taking care of our bodies, as God created us in the image and likeness of Him," says Selvin Estuardo, teacher at Vida Mochan.

And the impact of Health in Action reaches far beyond the school community. "In the family environment as well, the students



Clinic staff at Mochan parent launch.

influence a great deal as they are an example for their parents and siblings. They teach them the methods that are done," says Maria.

"Now, I teach my cousins the steps to wash and brush appropriately so that they can be healthy and not get sick," explains, Breydi. "Although they sometimes don't want to do so... after I explain to them the grave consequences for their health, they obey."

Thank you from the students and staff taking part in the Health in Action program. As Gesler says, "It's been a blessing, without a doubt."



Giving Opportunities

Fountain of Life

In recent months, we have been reminded anew of the incredible need to care for abandoned children in Guatemala. We have heard sad stories in the news of children neglected and mistreated. We weep with those who weep as we consider our part in caring for abandoned and orphaned children in and around Tactic. These lives, too, have a divine purpose!

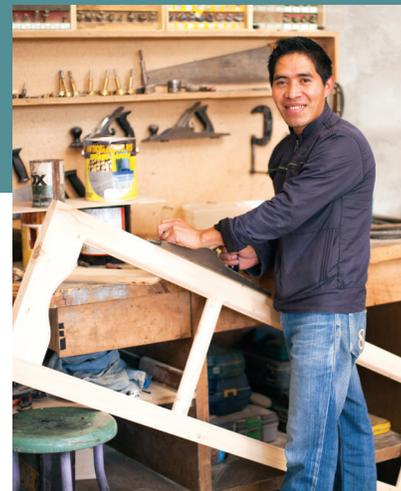
Our heart's desire is to be a place of refuge, hope and comfort for these little ones who need it most, nurturing them in the love of Jesus. We long to provide this type of loving care, and await the day when our doors will be open and there will be babies in our arms.

We're getting closer! As part of the first phase of the Fountain of Life Children's Home, the infant house is in the final stages of construction, and some of the staff housing is complete.

But we're not done yet! Will you help us complete Phase One?

We are now working on furnishing the baby home – including with cribs handmade by Guatemalans in our woodworking shop! You can be part of this by donating towards the Fountain of Life Children's Home at www.impactministries.ca/orphanare.

Thank you for your generosity and all that it means in the lives of precious children!



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The infant house in the first phase of the Fountain of Life Children's Home.

Support a Class

For \$50/month, you can support an entire class of students and watch them grow as they progress through school – and in the process, you can bless the Vida teachers who are key to reaching our children and developing them into leaders. Support a class as an individual or family, or join together with your church, school, or workplace. We're looking for at least 10 supporters for each class!

"Crosspoint Community Church decided to participate in the Support a Class Program as a result of trips my wife and I made to Tactic. We were so impressed with the dedication of the young teachers we met at the Vida schools and how they not only diligently provided their students with a strong academic education, but also cared deeply for their emotional and spiritual well-being. They had chosen to teach at the Vida schools rather than earning a much higher salary by teaching at public schools. When we found out that we could help increase their salaries by partnering with a class at one of the Vida schools, we jumped on board!

Last year, I visited our class at Vida Chijacorral. I was blown away by the reception I received. The students gave me beautiful handmade notes and cards expressing their gratitude to my church. After we shared a snack, the class insisted on praying for me. I left the class with my heart full.



Class praying for Peter.

Last March, mission team members from our church were able to visit again. We enjoyed playing games outside and eating a delicious snack they had made especially for us.

I strongly urge other churches to participate in the Support a Class program. Your donations will help to change precious lives."

- Peter Boothroyd, Crosspoint Community Church, Winnipeg, MB

Visit www.impactministries.ca/supportaclass/ to support a class today!

More ways to give ➔ For more ways to give, check out www.impactministries.ca/donate, fill out the enclosed remittance form and mail it to our office, or call us at (250) 434-4350. Thanks for making an impact!

Events:

Les & Rita in Canada

Les and Rita were in British Columbia in April & May, visiting family, speaking at churches, and sharing about Impact Ministries. Les spoke in churches from Abbotsford to Charlie Lake, sharing what is happening in Tactic and providing updates on schools and classrooms.

Les will be back in Canada for Friends of Impact events starting in October. This season we will focus on eastern Canada (with a brief stop in Edmonton, AB at the end of October). If you would like to host an event, or have Les speak at your church or Christian school, please contact Mel Jackson at friends@impactministries.ca. To find an event near you, check out www.impactministries.ca/events this fall.

Updates:

Alumni of the Year

Congratulations to Les & Rita Peters on being named Columbia Bible College's 2017 Alumni of the Year for their role in founding Impact Ministries and raising Guatemalan leaders. They are honoured to receive this award and are grateful for God's faithfulness in their lives.



Year-End Matching Fund Success

At the end of 2016 we had an exciting giving opportunity where gifts given to our General Fund were matched dollar for dollar with an equal gift to our Orphan Care Fund. We started out with a goal of raising \$100K and, with few generous donors, we were soon able to increase that to \$125K. Because of people like you, we reached and exceeded our goal of matching \$125K! Thank you to each one who gave so generously and sacrificially. These gifts mean that not only is the construction of the baby home almost complete - but we also have the funding available where needed most to keep our programs running efficiently and to allow us to respond to pressing needs.

#NoHungryKids



Many kids in Guatemala don't get enough to eat. Each day, children at the Vida schools receive a nutritious meal, filling the gap. Last November, the #NoHungryKids campaign aimed to raise \$12,000 on GivingTuesday. Many of you sacrificially gave, and together we surpassed the goal with \$12,290 raised to provide 30,750 meals for kids! Thank you for your ongoing support in training up the next generation of leaders in Guatemala! We plan to continue this campaign on GivingTuesday 2017.

The Walls are Going Up in Chijulhá

In March, the first brick was laid for Vida Chijulhá, and now the walls are going up on this, our 11th school. Special thanks to Living Waters Christian School, Southwest Community Church, and East Parkland Bible Church who have joined together to help fund the first phase of Vida Chijulhá School, making it possible to serve children and families from Chijulhá and the surrounding communities.



Serving in Guatemala

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