

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.

## Greetings from Les and Rita

**Looking in the rear-view mirror gives us an overwhelming sense of awe.** This year marks sixteen years of service on the mission field in Guatemala and we can so clearly see that God has been at work!

Since the moment that we arrived in Tactic, Guatemala, October 2000, we have witnessed the Lord's marvelous intervention in many Guatemalan lives. Desperately broken lives that were filled with grief, misery and anguish now have found peace with God and a hope for their future.

The Spirit of God has manifested himself as people put their trust in Jesus' redeeming grace. Their lives come into order, marriages are restored, men have become faithful husbands and godly fathers in their homes and generational cycles of abuse are being replaced with a 'new way of living' that is nothing short of miraculous.

In spite of economic challenges, those who have barely enough to survive themselves, begin to share with those in greater need. These new believers are fueled by a passion that leads to fervent worship and to an intense desire to reach out to those still lost.

For us it is a privilege to serve among the Guatemalan people in this time of restoration and renewal. The Rio de Vida Church is now governed by Guatemalan leaders who have been trained and are demonstrating faithfulness and fruitfulness in their ministry. Nationals who have grown up in the ministry are now advancing the Kingdom with great effect.

This last September, our hearts were thrilled as we laid hands on Hector Beb and he became the first ordained national pastor of our church here in Guatemala. This is significant for us; this is evidence that the mission with which the Lord sent us to Guatemala is being fulfilled.

Impact Ministries' mission 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, and to impact North American Christians for world missions.

We will continue to mentor, develop and support these emerging leaders and we invite you to join with us as we enter 2017 with the hopes of opening another school and completing phase one of our 'children's village'.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support.

Blessings,

Les & Rita Peters

Founders/Guatemalan Field Directors



*Les, Rita and son Tim*



*Hector, ordained September 2016*

# Pray for our Teachers



## **Gabriel is one of our teachers, and ministers daily to the children in his class. Here is his story:**

My family doesn't yet know the Lord, but I heard about God through the Impact school and received Him as my Saviour in grade three. At school I learned to seek and love Him with all my heart. My desire is to please our living and everlasting God.

There have been many difficult times when I have said, 'I give up,' but the Lord has always been there to help me. I recall a time, two weeks before a Phys. Ed. competition, when I didn't have running shoes. I began praying for shoes. Days went by, and I continued to pray. Then, three days before the exam, I went downtown and saw a pair of shoes. I thought, 'These are the running shoes I need.' I continued praying in faith. Then, just one hour before leaving for the competition, a gift of money from my sponsor arrived at my door. In that moment, I was grateful to my sponsor, but I also saw God's hand, and thanked Him. I competed in those shoes that I had prayed for! I know that the Lord exists and always helps me.

For a time, I led my cousins and siblings in prayer for our family. One day while we were praying at the home of my uncle, who is a witch, we were very frightened. Following that time my cousins were discouraged and soon stopped praying for our family. I stopped too. When I shared this with Rita (Peters), our missionary, she encouraged me to continue praying, telling me, 'From you will come a new generation.' This helped me carry on in God's ways.

At school I learned to praise the Lord, but there were difficult times when I would have loved words of encouragement from my parents. They couldn't provide these, as they didn't know the Lord. Still, God was there, sustaining and strengthening me. There were also occasions when my parents wanted me to quit school and work with my Dad. I always asked the Lord to help me and to give my parents wisdom. I know He was there and because of this, I graduated from high school and post-secondary education. I continue serving the Lord because He has lifted me up. I love children, and I am a grade one teacher at the elementary school I attended as a child.

Last year I began to feel emptiness in my heart and I seemed to lose interest in God. I had been failing with some work requirements and that was causing me to fall apart. Although I continued to attend devotionals, I was no longer feeling the Lord's presence the same way.

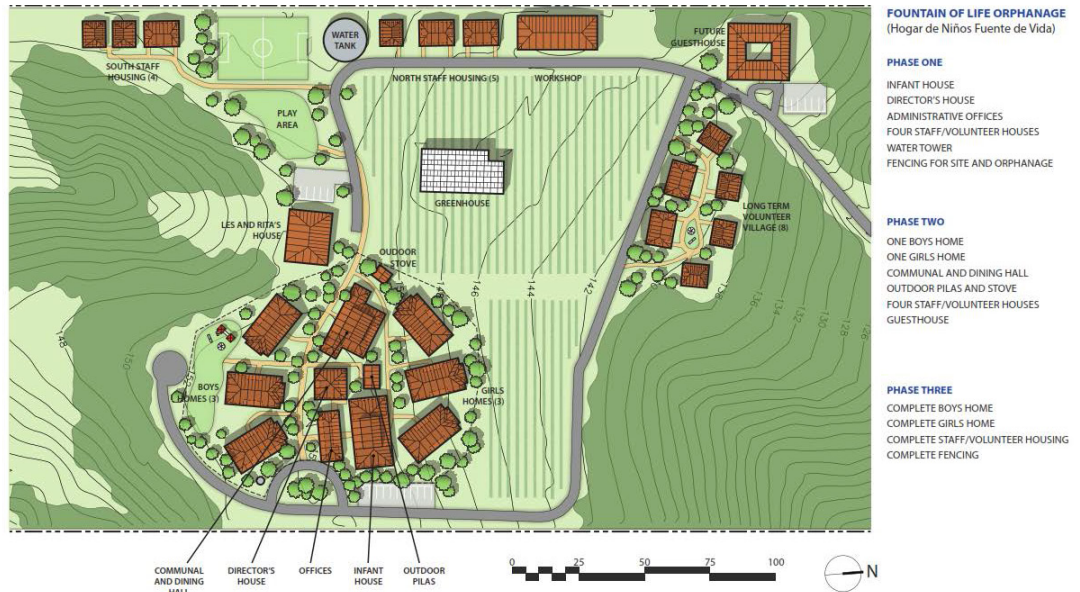
I didn't want to be a poor example to the children or co-workers and so I thought that I should leave the school and the ministry. I shared this with one of my co-workers, Hector. As I shared, I felt the Lord clearly speak to me through him, restoring me again.

I continue here in the ministry because of God's faithfulness, grace and mercy. I am thankful for brothers and sisters who have encouraged me. I am so thankful to the Lord who is all-powerful, the One I can truly trust. He is always with me and is lifting me up and guiding me.

# Year-end Giving Opportunities

## Matching Fund Special – General Fund and Orphan Care

**This fall we have a unique opportunity to make donation dollars stretch further!** Through a generous donor, donations will be matched by a special Matching Fund. Donations given to our General Fund are being matched (up to \$100,000) with an equal donation towards our Orphan Care ministry, with the Fountain of Life Children's Home. We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to how God will provide through generous people like you. We invite you to be part of this! Your gift to the General Fund will be matched dollar for dollar with a gift to Orphan Care, making a difference in the lives of precious children who so desperately need to know they are loved.



## Support a Class – \$50/month

At our Western Canada Friends of Impact events this fall, we have been highlighting our Support a Class program. We have 10 schools in Guatemala and our goal is to have each class in these schools supported, with 10 supporters per class. We are thrilled with the number of people who have stepped up to support a class. We still need more people - will you be one of them? You will receive an annual photo and updates from your class.

For us at Impact Ministries, reaching children and developing leaders to change the future of their society is critically important. Our ten schools and our dedicated teachers are our top priority in realizing this vision. The Support a Class program bridges the funding gap between what Child Sponsorship covers and the actual cost of running our schools and paying our teachers. This funding gap stems from the fall in the Canadian dollar and a recent mandate from the government of Guatemala to increase teacher salaries and benefits. Will you be part of our vision for the children of Guatemala by becoming one of our class supporters?

**For each commitment of \$50/month, an additional one-time gift of \$400 will be released into the program.** This is made possible through an anonymous donor who is committed to the children and teachers in our schools.

## Here's what people are saying...

As we anticipated our visit to our sponsored class and prepared some little gifts for the teacher and the children, we really had no idea of what to expect. Our class at the Vida Mochan Primary School met us with such excitement. As we walked through the classroom door a large banner with our names, as well as greetings in English from all the children, brought tears to our eyes. After introductions and through a translator we were able to express to the children our joy to share in their lives as sponsors. We also had the opportunity to pray for them and bless them with a little gift and a cupcake with a Canadian flag for each child. The teacher shared some stories regarding several students – a little boy who had recently completed chemo treatments and another student who previously did not interact with others but was doing much better this year. The love and connection the teacher had with each student was so obvious. Before we left, the children came around us and prayed for us. Wow! That was so powerful! We left feeling so blessed and encouraged by what God is doing in the hearts of these children and in our hearts as well.



~ Harm and Linda Mulder, Stony Plain, AB

*To donate you may use the enclosed remittance form and send a cheque, or go online to [www.impactministries.ca](http://www.impactministries.ca).*

# News and Updates



## Western Canada 2016 Friends of Impact Events

Les Peters travelled Western Canada to share news and stories of what God is doing through Impact Ministries in Tactic, Guatemala! This was an absolutely wonderful time to connect with many of you! Thank you to those who attended, and a big thank you to all who helped make these events possible, including those listed here!!

- Oct. 3 **Ladner, BC** at Ladner Baptist Church, with Tim Leaver
- Oct. 4 **Vancouver, BC** at Vancouver Chinese Baptist, with Henry Lew and Tony Tom
- Oct. 6 **Hope, BC** at Grace Baptist Church, with Jeff Kuhn
- Oct. 7 **Kamloops, BC** at Southwest Community Baptist Church, with Carol Fulcher
- Oct. 14 **Edmonton, AB** at ECCC with Steve and Elaine Wat
- Oct. 17 **Stony Plain, AB** at Stony Plain Alliance Church, with Harm and Linda Mulder
- Oct. 19 **Regina, SK** at Regina Christian School, with Scott and Julie McLaren
- Oct. 21 **Winnipeg, MB** at Grant Memorial Church, with Cam Stephens
- Oct. 24 **Estevan, SK** at Estevan Alliance Church, with Nicole Gibbons
- Oct. 30 **Three Hills, AB** at Dance Celebration Studio, with Ed and Jennifer Yourk
- Nov. 3 **Calgary, AB** at Foothills Alliance Church, with Terry Hawley and Mel Jackson



◀ A special thank you to Mel Jackson, our Friends of Impact Coordinator, for planning all of these events with our Regional Reps!



## Other Events

Les was privileged to speak at three missions conferences this fall: Edmonton Christian Community Church, Bow Island Evangelical Free Church, and East Parkland Bible Church.

## Fountain of Life Children's Home – Construction Update



Progress on the baby home construction.



Future staff housing construction progress.

## Contact Us

### IN CANADA

#### Impact Ministries

PO Box 975, Stn. Main  
Kamloops, BC V2C 6H1  
canada@impactministries.ca  
www.impactministries.ca  
Phone: (250) 434-4350  
Fax: (778) 470-1115

### IN GUATEMALA

#### Ministerios Impacto

KM 187, Granja Chisac,  
Tactic, Alta Verapaz,  
Guatemala, Central America  
guatemala@impactministries.ca  
Phone: (502) 5825-7640

### IN UNITED STATES

#### Impact Ministries USA

Box 550  
Duvall, WA 98019-0550  
info@impactminusa.org  
www.impactministriesusa.org  
Phone: (617) 855-5259

## To learn more and to donate online

**Websites:** [www.impactministries.ca](http://www.impactministries.ca)  
& [www.impactministriesusa.org](http://www.impactministriesusa.org)



Follow us on Facebook!  
Impact Ministries Guatemala  
Impact Ministries Canada

## Your help requested

Would you take a moment and help us update your information in our database for accuracy? As exciting news and stories emerge, we want to share them with you. In the future we will be looking at sending more updates by email. Update your info here: [www.update.impactministries.ca](http://www.update.impactministries.ca)

