

Growing Godly Leaders

Ten years ago, a dozen students graduated from Grade 10 at Vida Chamché. Twenty-three different children had been part of this class over the years - some just for a year or two, some for longer. In Guatemala, sometimes economics or family dynamics or simply life gets in the way of an education.

But all were impacted by their time at Vida Chamché. Twelve graduated and four continued on to teacher's training – then came back to teach at our Vida Schools. Now, they're growing the next generation of godly leaders.



▲ (left to right): Maynor Cahuec, Sergio Buc, David Balam Chitay, Elmer Pooú.

Sergio Buc teaches Grade 7 at Vida Chamché. Elmer Pooú started the 2018 year as the principal of our newest school, Agua de Vida Chijulhá. Maynor Cahuec teaches Grade 2 at Vida Chamché. David Balam Chitay is the principal of Vida Purulhá. David also serves in the Rio de Vida Church in Purulha, and Elmer and Maynor serve in the Rio de Vida Church in Mochan.

Here are their stories:

Why did your parents decide to send you to school here?

Sergio: To give me the opportunity that they never had. My father only had school up to grade 4, and my mother was never given the chance to attend school.

Elmer: At that time, my parents still had not been able attend school (my mom is still going to school right now). With great effort, they enrolled me and supported me in everything they could.

Maynor: My parents signed me up because they had been Christians since they were young.

David: I came to this school because I was one of the most disobedient kids in the school that I was attending, and the principal didn't allow me to go back! Then my parents heard about the opportunity to get into the Beerseba school (which is called Vida Chamché today), so my parents decided to register me.

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▲ Money cannot buy the sort of awe we felt two years ago, when we visited a few of the classes we are blessed to support.

We were not prepared for the gracious, creative and beautiful outpouring of love lavished on us. These children consider school to be a privilege, and their teachers are there not only to teach, but to shepherd, with Jesus' love. The teachers visit the children in their homes and support them in their many challenges. They see God work in situations that only He can resolve. God is doing amazing, life-changing things in the classrooms of the Vida schools, and it is truly pure joy to be a partner in this, His work.

Susan Hawley, Calgary, Alberta



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When did you start attending school here?

Sergio: I was seven years old, in the second grade. It was difficult because I could only speak the Poqomchi' language.

Elmer: When I was seven years old.

Maynor: I was eleven years old, in sixth grade. In the previous four years I had been studying in a private school, but it wasn't a Christian school. I was in third grade when my parents started to work on signing me up for this school, but there was no space. Suddenly, someone pulled out their children and there was space for my siblings and me.



"...I began to understand that God loves me, and He loves me through these kinds of situations." ~ Maynor

David: I came to start Grade 6. I didn't like it here too much. I remember the first day was very different, the other children had their eyes closed and hands lifted, and they were praying and singing, and some of them were on their knees. So that was completely new to me, and everything felt very strange.

What did you learn at school that made you into the leader that you are today?

Sergio: The way the ministry teaches is very encouraging. We begin our days with devotionals and we are taught to see God in everything: in our lives and our studies. We start and end our days always looking to the Lord. I remember they taught us the same basic truth all the way from elementary to graduation. The truth that God is love, God is in all things, we need to praise the Lord, and look to Him in all things, in every subject – mathematics, science, social studies – in all academics; and if we look to the Lord, everything will be fine.

Elmer: While I attended school, the Lord was forming me not only academically, but also spiritually. He was molding me, changing the many weaknesses in my heart and in my life. I think that from the beginning it was a great blessing to be in a school where we were taught not only science and mathematics, but also about the Lord and the Bible.



"I want to help other 'Davids' who are living in the same situation that I was, and change many generations." ~ David

David: I remember the school principal always came with encouraging words, and he would tell us, "Seek the Lord. He has good plans for you." I got each one of those words and the Bible verses and made them mine and applied them to myself.

How did you learn that God loves you?

Sergio: I remember it very well: I was in a devotional meeting with all the other students. They were talking about God: that God is love, that God does great things, that God does miracles, and that He has a plan for each of our lives. We began to sing songs of praise to the Lord, and I felt that the Lord was calling me to a greater purpose, that He was preparing me for something...to find Him and serve Him with all my heart.

Elmer: Through Christian teachers who taught us to sing, to raise our hands, and to kneel before the Lord, I learned about the Lord's great love, so I am very grateful to the teachers.

Maynor: One of the memories that comes to mind was on that first day. I had to be disciplined. After the devotional had finished, the teacher said we could take our seats. I moved my friend's chair, so he fell on the floor when he tried to sit down. I was disciplined for that. But through this experience, I began to understand that God loves me, and He loves me through these kinds of situations.

Why did you decide to support your class?

We sponsor classes because we desire that these children grow up to be passionate about loving and serving Jesus. ~ Kristen

I have to admit, we supported a class because at the time, there wasn't a child available to sponsor. But it was so much fun to play with them and pray with them when we were there this spring. ~ Michele

During this last short-term mission trip, one of the youth was so touched by the children that during the debriefing he asked us to join with him and to sponsor a class! So six of us decided on the spot to sponsor a class. It's so great to see the youth stepping forward! ~ James

Our daughter, Sarah, has decided to sponsor a class with Impact as a way to open the eyes of her Grade 4 students to an effective example of Christ-centered education for students in another part the world. ~ Susan

David: Through devotionals, I started to know the Lord, and during my second year at the school, at a spiritual retreat in another town, I accepted the Lord as my Lord. I was so happy that morning! I never knew about the Lord before going to the school. My family never knew about the Lord. I was the first in my family to come to the Lord.

What do you love about the working with students?

Sergio: God has taught me a lot through my students. I have seen lives that have been healed, changed and restored.



“That is my prayer and hope for my students, that they would not only excel in their studies, but also learn about the love of God.” ~ Sergio

Elmer: I love being able to share God’s love with the children, to instruct them, to guide them, and to let them know that they need the Lord. They come with many problems, come with many needs, just as I did when I first came to school.

David: I enjoy talking with the teachers, parents and students. Teachers and principals talked to me when I was a student and encouraged me to change. They also helped my family come to know the Lord. I want to do the same as my teachers did for me.

What do you dream for the children in your care?

Sergio: To see them do well in their academics and also in their relationship with God. That is my prayer and hope for my students, that they would not only excel in their studies, but also learn about the love of God.

Elmer: My goals are that my students continue to grow, that they can continue to learn from God...this is one of the purposes that I have in my heart, to teach them to love the Lord always.



“Through Christian teachers who taught us to sing, to raise our hands, to kneel before the Lord, I learned about the Lord’s great love.” ~ Elmer

David: I want to help other “Davids” who are living in the same situation that I was and change many generations. I can tell you that my generation has changed now. I want all my students to be a new generation.



Will you come alongside leaders like Sergio, Elmer, Maynor and David as they grow the next generation of godly leaders? Who knows what God has planned for the children in the class you support.

Support a class at www.impactministries.ca/growleaders.

Support a class to grow the next generation of godly leaders

Support a class for \$50/month Support _____ classes for \$_____/month

Please make cheques payable to **Impact Ministries Canada**.

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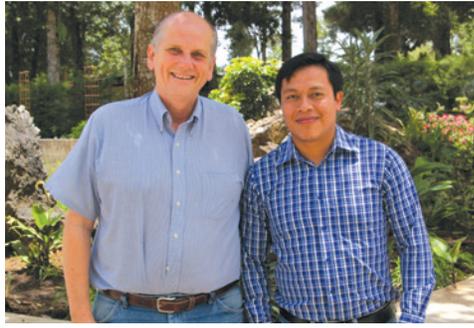


You can also share a heartfelt message with the kids in your class. We hope you will write a note and be part of their Vida School experience.

www.impactministries.ca/growleaders

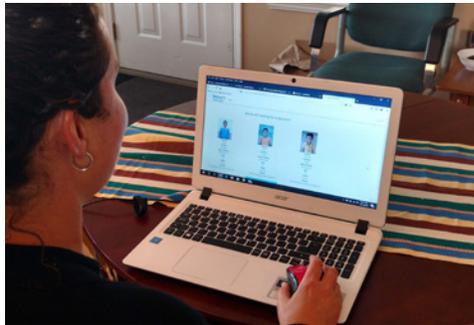
News and Updates

You are invited to a Friends of Impact event to hear Hector Beb and Les Peters share about *Changed Lives ~ Hope Restored*. Hector and Les will be in Canada in October and will be speaking at Friends Events throughout Western Canada. Find a Friends Event in your area at impactministries.ca/events.



We have been making great progress on the Chamché rebuild campaign, and are so close to completing Phase 1, which has come in under budget! See impactministries.ca/rebuild. Watch for the Build a Brighter Future Campaign before Christmas, which will kick off our Phase 2 fundraising.

Did you know? We currently have over 80 children waiting for a sponsor like you. And, thanks to many hours volunteered by Dave Peters, we now have an online sponsorsoft system that allows you to select your own sponsor child! Browse available sponsor children (or write your sponsor child) at impact.sponsorsoft.ca.



Congratulations to the 2018 Vida Science Olympics Team! Two of our students have been selected for regional competition, representing the department of Alta Verapaz: Hugo Milián for Grade 10 Physics and Kevin Cabnal for Grade 8 Math.

Thanks to everyone who joined us in Guatemala this year! We sent over 30 teams, including the Agua de Vida Chijulhá Grand Opening Celebration Team, Medical Teams, Dental Teams, a Mechanics Team, a Carpentry Team, our Sponsorship Team, and other teams from churches and schools across Canada. A special thanks to our Guesthouse Hosts, who worked alongside our Hospitality Team in Guatemala.



Serving in Guatemala

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