

Today is the Day

Oscar Max still remembers the short-term team visiting his home that day. He was alone with his sons when a group of foreigners and Impact staff showed up. The Canadians visited with him and his boys. They spoke words of encouragement and asked if they could pray for Oscar. "One day I will accept the Lord," Oscar thought as they prayed.

But then the team's driver spoke up: "Brother," he said, "the Lord is telling me in my heart that today is the day you will accept the Lord, because the coming of the Lord is near." Tears rolled down Oscar's cheeks as he prepared to open his heart to God. When Oscar's wife arrived home, she was greeted by five excited boys running out to tell her that Daddy had accepted Jesus!



Oscar in about 2004 with his family and a sponsor.

This is the power of short-term missions in conjunction with local ministry. Oscar's wife had been praying for her husband, the children had been praying for their father; indeed, the whole church had been praying for Oscar. The short-term team, alongside Impact leadership, had a chance to visit with Oscar thanks to the Vida Schools and the sponsorship program. The words of encouragement the team members spoke provided the opportunity for a local Brother to speak the exact words Oscar needed to hear. Together, they were used by God to touch Oscar's life.



Oscar has become a godly example to his sons.

If you ask Oscar whether Mission Teams are important, he'll say, "Yes, yes, yes!" Because, as he says, "If it wasn't for them, for the help of the Lord and them too...my life would have continued in the same way it was." Instead, the day he accepted the Lord, his life and his future began to change. He became a godly example to his sons, who have grown up to be godly examples themselves. And the impact of that visit continues to echo through eternity.

Are you interested in having an eternal impact through a short-term mission experience? Check out www.impactministries.ca/teams for opportunities to lead or join a team.

"My Life Impacted"

Here's what you had to say about your short-term mission trip with Impact Ministries:

All the events we did really opened my eyes to what life is like in Guatemala, and helped me grow in my relationship with God.

The children singing praises will live with me for the rest of my life.

The school visits were amazing. The children welcomed us with open arms. They made us feel special and loved.



I found the devotional times very emotional – especially as the children prayed for their teachers.

The home visits and children's ministry are really special, as we have more and more families with sponsor children. It adds a whole new dimension to the trip.

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“My Life Impacted” (continued from page 1)



The sinkhole helped me demolish fear and recognize God's beautiful creation.

I enjoyed playing soccer with the kids during children's ministry. It made me understand how wonderful God is and how much he loves the children.

What a blessing to hear each of the staff's testimonies. If I could emulate anything, it would be their humble ways in which they serve.

The debriefs really helped me to focus on the events of the day and to ask God what He was teaching me. This time also gave me more insight into the culture and the role of Impact Ministries.

I was really impacted by the teachers we met... It was so inspiring to see how much they loved and cared for the kids.

I got to meet my sponsor kid on the trip! I'll never forget the hugs she gave me and the joy she had.

The worship the kids do in the morning is incredible. I wish we started the day off with worship in Canada.



The hospital really opened my eyes to the importance of prayer and how our first instinct should be to turn to God for help. This was a theme that showed up continually for me in Guatemala.

When we went to the sinkhole, we all started singing worship songs and I felt the Holy Spirit there with us in the darkness.

I had a very great experience and I would love to come back!

I want everyone to have this experience.

Ready for your own short-term mission experience? Check out www.impactministries.ca/teams.

Teams Coordinator Update



We extend a huge thank you to Shelly Goosen for her dedicated work as Teams Coordinator over the past five years. Shelly's careful attention to detail has blessed many churches, schools, medical/dental groups, and others. Shelly has helped in planning over a hundred mission trips to Guatemala for Impact Ministries. Shelly, you will be dearly missed!



We're excited to welcome Colette Zacharias of Calgary, Alberta as our new Teams Coordinator. Colette has big shoes to fill, but we're confident that with her background in planning and her heart to serve the Lord, she will do a fabulous job. Colette has played an integral part in planning her children's mission trips to Guatemala, and will be planning her own Impact Ministries mission trip soon. Shelly and Colette are transitioning their roles this month.

No Translators Required



Sometimes you can hear the children before you can see them...giggling, excited, running to the school yard for another afternoon of Vacation Bible School.

They know they'll get to play more games with the foreigners – maybe tag or “Pato, Pato, Ganso” or even soccer. They love these games, and the neat crafts they get to make and take home. And, of course, they love all the hugs.

Our mission teams do a great job preparing for the children’s ministry portion of their mission trip – making sure the crafts reinforce the theme and the games are easy to play. But in many ways, the mission teams are the support team. It’s the Vida students who run the show.

A few years ago, Impact Ministries started inviting Vida Junior High and High School classes to participate in the children’s ministry. As part of their class time, they now prepare the songs for worship along with the Bible stories, and they do all the actual teaching for the children’s ministry. No translators required! And the students do an amazing job.

It’s exciting to see these Guatemalan teenagers stand up with boldness as they have the opportunity to exercise their faith. Some even discover just how much they enjoy spending time with kids and sharing God’s word with them – and they feel the Lord calling them to study to become teachers because of their experience helping out at VBS.

The partnership demonstrated through the children’s ministry, with a Vida Class working alongside a mission team, is exactly what we want to see in short-term missions. We’re not here to “do for”, but to “do with”. And, while the “foreigners” head home after their time in Guatemala, the students stay, continuing on as role models for the younger kids in their communities.



Partner with these young role models by supporting one of our junior high or high school classes at www.impactministries.ca/supportaclass. Or consider coming on your own short-term mission trip at www.impactministries.ca/teams.

Partner with us in Growing Godly Leaders www.impactministries.ca/donate

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Please contact me about:

- leading a short-term mission team
- participating in a mission team

www.impactministries.ca/teams

After receiving the long-awaited government approval, we celebrated the grand opening of the Vida Children's Home in July, and welcomed little Joseph, our first Vida baby! Thank you to everyone who prayed for this day. Become an Orphan Care Champion at www.impactministries.ca/orphancare.



◀ **Nine Canadians travelled to Guatemala this summer as part of our Sponsorship Team.** They were excited to meet the children they sponsor and the classes they support, and to participate in a short-term missions experience. The 2020 Sponsorship Team is scheduled for August 6th-16th. Apply at www.impactministries.ca/teams.

▶ **Our Founder and Field Director, Les Peters, will be in Canada this fall for a few special events.** Impact Events are being planned in the Maritime provinces and in Edmonton, Alberta where Les will be part of a missions conference. Check www.impactministries.ca/events for more details and updates.



◀ **RIDE Day is October 5th, and it's not too late to join one of our teams across Canada walking or cycling for kids in Guatemala!** Impact Ministries is participating in Ride for Refuge for the very first time this year. See www.impactministries.ca/ride for more info or to register.

▶ **Dental Assistants Needed!** We have dentists going to Guatemala who would be in need of dental assistants to work alongside them. Interested in being matched up on a short-term dental team? Contact teams@impactministries.ca.



Serving in Guatemala

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