

A Refuge for Flor



Vida Chamché is a refuge for many children—children like Flor. Two years ago, her mother deserted the family, leaving her with her father. Flor felt abandoned and rejected, and filled with resentment. Every day, she felt hatred towards her mom. At four years old, she could not understand these feelings and what was happening in her life. From the bottom of her heart she wished that everything was different. It was like a nightmare for her. That sweet and smiling little girl became withdrawn and rebellious.

At school, Flor saw her friends collected by their mothers, while she was shuttled between those relatives who had time to pick her up and to care for her while her father was working. She decided to forget her mom; she didn't want to talk about her any more.

Flor's Dad realized she needed a change, that she needed to feel loved and accepted. Although he wasn't a believer, he decided to register her at Vida Chamché school for Grade 1.

On the first day of classes, Flor heard that God has a plan for her life, that Jesus died for her—and for the first time, she heard that she is special, a beautiful creation of God. The devotionals were a balm for her wounds, and slowly, Flor's spirit began to heal.



Flor is once again a happy child

Now, at age 6, Flor's biggest desire is to see her mother and to tell her that she forgives her for having left them. She wants her mother to know how much God loves her and that He can also change her life. Flor wants to learn more about God and to be guided by Him. She is once again a happy child.

Vida Chamché is a refuge for many children—children like Flor.



▲ **It was recess at Vida Chamché, and one of their classmates was feeling sick.**

The six-year-olds didn't quite know what to do. So they did the only thing they could. They prayed! The grade ones gathered around the boy and put their hands on him. One of the girls, Jacqueline, started the prayer, and everyone else joined in.

Changes for Aydee Beb

Aydee Beb came to what is now Vida Chamché for the first time when she was six years old. A bright, spunky girl, she settled quickly into her first grade classroom in the corner of the original adobe-brick building of what was then Colegio Beerseba. "I learned many things there," says Aydee, "and by the time I graduated from Junior High, my teachers had taught me how to protect my life, to watch over it, to seek the Lord, and to always do things correctly."

Aydee remembers Chamché as a refuge: "I give thanks to this ministry, because this was a place of refuge for me. That's how I see this place, it's a place of refuge. And this hasn't changed for our children. For many of them, this is a place of refuge for them."

Then came some difficult years for Aydee. Without a Vida high school to attend, Aydee left for the public high school in 2005 to complete her senior high teacher training program. "It was the first time in my life that I was making my own decisions, and I lost my way," says Aydee, "I made some bad decisions. But the Lord is so marvelous. He brought me back. And everything that they taught me when I was little is now bearing fruit."

Today, Aydee is addressed as Principal Aydee Beb, and she is in charge of the Vida Chamché AM program. Her first grade classroom—indeed, the whole of the original adobe-brick structure that featured so large in her growing up years—has recently been taken down to make room for a two-phase reconstruction. Despite the fact that the building was old, dingy, and becoming unsafe, Aydee can't help but feel a bit sad. "My heart is so sensitive," she says, "I have many memories."

Changes are coming to Vida Chamché. Impact Ministries is starting construction on the Chamché rebuild. "It will be a



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difficult time for us," says Aydee, "We're praying for this: that the Lord will give us patience, that the Lord will give us a lot of wisdom, and that the Lord will take care of our children." Chamché doesn't have a large schoolyard, and with active construction and temporary classrooms, the children won't have much space to play until the project is complete. "We're encouraging them," says Aydee, "We're telling them that this year is going to be a difficult time, but in the end it's going to be something good."

Will you help encourage the children and staff at Vida Chamché by donating to the Chamché Rebuild campaign?

We want to get phase one completed as quickly as we can and allow this year's 6-year-olds to begin making new memories in new classrooms at Vida Chamché. Donate at www.impactministries.ca/rebuild.

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Aydee Beb: "Everything that they taught me when I was little is now bearing fruit."



For the safety of our students, we've already constructed some temporary classrooms and taken down the original building.

The End of an Era—and the Start of Something New

A hundred and four years is a long time for an adobe-brick structure to last... but that's how long the original part of Vida Chamché school has been around! Built as a home for a family, then turned into "Colegio Beerseba"—the forerunner to the Vida Schools—this building has served as classrooms for almost a quarter of a century. In fact, Principal Aydee Beb fondly recalls her first grade classroom in the corner.

Unfortunately, the original part of Vida Chamché has reached the end of its life cycle. The adobe walls are brittle and dried out—not safe in a country that is prone to earthquakes. The roof and the rafters in the original building are compromised by rust, rot and termites. The roof leaks and the wooden rafters will soon not be safe.

For the safety of our students, we've moved ahead immediately with the construction of some temporary classrooms and the demolition of the original building. Thank you for giving to the "Build a Brighter Future" campaign before Christmas. Some of these funds made it possible for us to respond quickly to these safety issues!

We'd like to invite you to join us in a two-phase plan for the Chamché rebuild, in



Vida Chamché as a family home

which the house and modifications that were on the Chamché site prior to 1996 will be torn down and replaced (the other additions made by Impact Ministries over the years will remain).

We are replacing the adobe-brick structure with a two-storey building that will allow us to better utilize the limited space on the Chamché property and will put the children into safe, well-ventilated, and well-lit classrooms. It will also allow us to add more students to both the morning and the afternoon primary school programs at this facility.

The first phase will include construction of three lower-level classrooms. We've



Vida Chamché as Colegio Beerseba

earmarked some Build a Brighter Future monies towards the Chamché rebuild campaign—but we're hoping to raise \$31,000 to complete this first phase.

Will you consider a gift towards the rebuild of this original Vida school? Give at www.impactministries.ca/rebuild.



Help rebuild Chamché

Help rebuild Vida Chamché to continue providing a refuge for kids like Flor

☐ \$31 ☐ \$310 ☐ \$3100 ☐ Other \$ _____

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

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Spending of funds is confined to programs and projects approved by Impact Ministries. Should a donor designate a contribution, we will honour that designation, with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met or cannot be completed for any reason as determined by Impact Ministries, the remaining designated gifts will be used where most needed. All gifts are tax deductible. Impact Ministries is committed to protecting your private information. The information you provide will be used to manage your sponsorship and communicate with you about our work. Thank you for your generosity.



Donate Online

www.impactministries.ca/rebuild

News and Updates

▶ **Thank you for donating towards the Build a Brighter Future Campaign!** We raised \$150,668, which has allowed us to start the Vida Chamché rebuild project and to support school programming throughout our Vida Schools.



◀ **Hector & Ericka and their family have moved into the newly-constructed Vida Children's Home as both directors and the first house parents.** Continue to pray as we take the steps required to welcome our first babies — hopefully sometime later this year.

▶ **The Grand Opening Ceremony for Agua de Vida Chijulhá was well attended,** with representatives from Impact Ministries, Living Water Christian Academy, Southwest Community Church, East Parkland Bible Church, and the local Rio de Vida church participating in the ribbon cutting.



◀ **We are thankful for the years that Christy Lew served as the Impact Ministries Medical Clinic Administrator.** She has accepted a position in Bolivia, and will be moving there shortly with her husband Angel to begin her new role. They will be greatly missed!

▶ **Hector Beb will be joining Les in Canada for the Friends Events this fall!** Contact friends@impactministries.ca to book an event or to invite Les & Hector to speak at your church or Christian school.



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