

A Sponsor of Her Very Own

“Who are these tall, strange-looking, generous people?” 4-year-old Hilary wondered.

They came to her school devotional and they gave her and her classmates big hugs. The teacher explained that these were sponsors. Right away, Hilary began to pray that she could have a sponsor of her very own. And she was so excited when she learned someone had sponsored her!

One day, Hilary’s family was struggling. They hadn’t had food for two days, and they didn’t know what to do. Her mother and father were sad and very worried. But Hilary knew just what to do!

“We need to pray that God will provide for us,” little Hilary said.

That day, Hilary’s mother came to pick her up from school like she always did. A gift was waiting. Hilary’s sponsor had sent food and other things for the family. God had answered Hilary’s prayer right away—through her sponsor! God is good.



Hilary's family was struggling



God answered Hilary's prayer through her sponsor!

Will you be the answer to a Vida student's prayers?

Did you know that our unsponsored children pray fervently for a sponsor of their very own? “You have no idea how happy our children are when they have a sponsor,” says Hector Beb. “A few weeks ago, my wife (the superintendent of the Vida Schools), was telling me that there was a little boy praying for a sponsor. And God had responded to him, and now he had a sponsor. When he heard the news, the boy was so happy he began to cry!”

And it's not just this one boy, it happens to other children as well. The students may not be able to put into words, the way a sponsor will impact their life—but they know it's life-changing. It's more than the education, the school uniform and new shoes, the daily meal and vitamins. It's the feeling of being loved and cared for. It's the knowledge that someone from far away is rooting for them

and praying for them. It's the sense that perhaps they're valued more than they think, and perhaps the future actually is a hopeful place. And, of course, it's the knowledge that God answers prayers.

Will you be the answer to a Vida student's prayers? For \$45/month you can sponsor a child in Guatemala. Or perhaps you already sponsor a child, but you know someone else who might? See the children who are still waiting for a sponsor at impact.sponsorsoft.ca and click on a name to read more of their story.



From Sponsorship to Leadership

In 2001, when Impact Ministries was still in its infancy, our newsletter included the profiles of seven children who needed sponsors. The oldest was Hector, Child 15-A, a high schooler who, in addition to his schooling, was helping his father on the land, helping his mother by carrying her produce to the market, and working part-time in a carpentry shop.



Hector and Bonnie reunite in 2018.

Back in Canada, Bonnie Yourk (now Bylsma) was intrigued about the ministry that Les & Rita Peters had started in Guatemala. "I sponsored my first sponsor child through Impact Ministries without really knowing a lot about child sponsorship," she says. She was matched up with Child 15-A.

Shortly after beginning her sponsorship, Bonnie travelled to Guatemala. "I don't have words, actually, for how impacting it was to my life to meet my child for the very first time. When I got to meet Hector, I got to see how real his faith was. It was remarkable to watch him worship, to watch him live

already, at such a young age, with integrity, with desire and passion to follow Jesus. It really, really impacted me."

Bonnie kept in contact with her sponsor child, proudly following as Hector graduated in the first graduating class of the Impact Ministries Vida Schools.

"I was so impacted by that one to one connection, between myself here in Canada, and someone else in another place, in a completely different situation." ~ Bonnie Bylsma

Ten years later, Bonnie distinctly remembers another newsletter that arrived from Impact Ministries—"On the front there was this picture of my child, who was now an adult, absolutely worshipping God and leading many children in worship to God. And this was my sponsor child. I got to watch my child not only graduate high school, which in itself is unusual for many children in Guatemala, but also to step into leadership, pastoring a church, and before that, teaching and leading within the schools."

Bonnie got to meet with Hector again this past year as he toured Canada with Impact Ministries, sharing his life story. Hector is now ordained, serving as the national pastor overseeing our Vida Churches. As Hector and Bonnie reconnected over dinner, it was a beautiful display of what a difference sponsorship makes.

Hector & Bonnie both know that sponsorship impacts lives—both of the sponsor and of the sponsor child. As Bonnie says: "Sponsorship made me aware that one person can make a difference."

Impact Ministries June 2001 Newsletter



Hector Armando
Beb Choc
Birth date:
August 30, 1983
Grade: 11
Child
Identification:
15-A

Hector likes to work. He helps his father on the land

and he works part time in a carpentry shop. He also helps his Mother by carrying her produce to the market to sell. Hector has completed grade 10. He has also been studying carpentry. He is in good health and enjoys playing basketball and soccer. He attends a church in Tactic. Hector and his family are also of the Pokomchi tribe. Hector's father works in agriculture. He plants corn, tomatoes and green peppers. His mother runs a little store at the front of their house. She also sells yucca in the market. Together they earn the family about \$200 monthly. Hector lives with his parents and with eight of his ten brothers and sisters.

"They told me, 'Hector, we're going to take a picture of you. We're going to look for a sponsor for you.' I was so happy!"

~ Hector Beb

Impact Ministries Sept 2011 Newsletter

THE DEVOTIONAL & WORSHIP TIMES AT THE LIFE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

(translated from Spanish to English)

God is speaking to the children. He is giving them wisdom and understanding. He is healing their hearts, bodies, minds and souls of much pain. The grace of God is being poured out and lives are being changed. Many children have given their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ in the devotionals in the schools.

Many families that were destroyed have been restored through the children who have taken the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ into their homes. As the children worship and praise God in their homes, their parents have become greatly affected and many have given their lives to the Lord; people who we never thought would step foot in a service, now have come to church.

Some parents have asked permission to watch the school devotionals and the Presence of God has touched them. They have poured their hearts out before God and they have cried with

sincere words; confessing to God their need of Him.

God is working through the schools in this community, in this municipality and in this country in general, affecting in a positive way the lives of many families.

Edgar Suc Juárez,
Principal of the Vida (Life) Senior High School,
Tactic, Guatemala
Director of the Agriculture Self-Sustainability Project

Truly, this is the heart of our ministry in Guatemala. Encountering the Lord through intimate times of worship has a way of overstepping the challenges of life; it washes the soul and purifies the mind, it gives hope and purpose and it gives Jesus His rightful place...as Saviour & LORD! Les Peters



Hector Beb, Principal of Chicoy Vida School, leading elementary students into the Presence of God. Hector was in the first graduating class of Impact Ministries Vida schools. He now has his education degree and is leading the next generation into a future with purpose and direction.

Nothing for Granted

by Sarah Seeley

Yoni doesn't take anything for granted. At 15, he already knows what it's like to grow up abandoned by his parents and without siblings.



Yoni with his classmates.

When Yoni hears his classmates complain about school, he always reminds them to be grateful, because he knows there are many children who don't have the opportunity for an education. He might have been one of them—but his aunt and uncle have taken him in, and enrolled him in the Junior High Program at Vida Mochán.

Yoni does his best in his studies, and when he's not doing homework or helping his aunt and uncle out around the house, he loves to play soccer. But Yoni's dream is to become a police officer, so that he can protect people and keep them safe.

In order to fulfill his dreams, Yoni needs to finish school, stay healthy and strong, and have someone in his corner, believing in him and cheering him on. But Yoni didn't have a sponsor.

Thankfully, a sponsor heard Yoni's story, and has come alongside him to encourage Yoni as he completes his education. But there are over 130 children like Yoni in Vida Schools still waiting for their sponsor. Do you have room in your heart to sponsor one more child? Do you know someone who does? See children with an immediate need for a sponsor at impact.sponsorsoft.ca.



\$45/month enables a child to attend an Impact Ministries school to receive an academic education and be taught to know and love the Lord! \$45/month gives your sponsor child hope for the future.



The principal of the Mochán school shared Yoni's story with a visiting mission team. Yoni is one of the students the school is nurturing and introducing to the life-changing love of God. Yoni didn't have a sponsor.

Marise Leger, a member of the mission team, saw how the teachers poured into their students' lives and heard examples of Vida students who went on to start careers and raise families. Marise was captivated by Yoni's story and his enthusiasm for education. She signed up to sponsor Yoni that day.



"It is the very least we can do. My heart was so full of God's love," said Marise.

Will you be the answer to a Vida student's prayers?

☐ Sponsor a child for \$45/month ☐ Sponsor _____ children for \$_____/month

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

Name:

Company (if applicable):

Address:

City:

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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/donate

News and Updates

Vida Chamché began the school year with three extra classrooms, thanks to the completion of the Chamché rebuild. Thank you to everyone who gave to the Build a Brighter Future campaign, allowing us to complete the second phase of renovations before the children were back in class!



◀ **Congratulations to the very first graduates of the Vida Teacher Training Program!** Vida Schools has hired seven teachers from our recent graduates for the 2019 school year. Four of these have been in our Vida School program since kindergarten! They were being trained... and now they are taking on leadership roles and influencing the lives of the children in their classes!

Have you ever dreamed of visiting your sponsor child or the class you support? We still have space on our July 11th-21st sponsorship team. This trip is also ideal for families who would like to participate together in a short-term mission trip to Guatemala. Apply now at www.impactministries.ca/teams



◀ **It's construction season at Impact Ministries!** Besides the Chamché Rebuild, three more classrooms are being added to Vida Chijacorral, footings for further additions are being prepared in Chijulhá, we are putting in footings for the chapel area at Vida Nueva, and the Rio de Vida Church is continuing work on the Chisac building.

Save the date! 2020 is Impact Ministries' 20th year in Guatemala, and we're planning a big celebration on June 19th, 2020. We'll have limited spots for mission trip alumni, donors and others interested in joining the party in Guatemala. Contact sandra@impactministries.ca to express your interest.



Serving in Guatemala

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