



2020 Ministry Report

Dear Ministry Partners,

2020 was the year that we were celebrating 20 Years of Impact in Guatemala - and what a year it was!

The relationships that Impact Ministries has built with Tactic and the surrounding communities over the past 20 years positioned us well to be able to share God's love in very practical ways.

Thank you for your generous gifts - they made it possible for us to quickly respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters in Guatemala - whether those needs were as a result of Covid lockdowns, of the tropical storms that hit our area so hard, or of the ongoing poverty that is endemic to our region.

Make no mistake - God has been at work in 2020, just as he has been at work in the past 20 years. We have seen hearts drawn closer to Jesus, both of those who receive and those who give.

We hope that this report will give you a small glimpse into what our year has looked like in Guatemala.

Thank you for standing with our Guatemalan brothers and sisters during this difficult year!

Les Peters CEO Impact Ministries Canada

Vida Schools

Our year began rather normally in January, with 10 school programs in session and 1676 students registered. Then along came Covid in March. The government closed down all schools across Guatemala, and prohibited students from visiting schools or teachers from visiting students. Churches, however, were allowed to provide aid to families in need.

Thanks to the generosity of Canadians, we were able to deliver thousands of food hampers in the coming weeks and months - and along with those hampers, we delivered education packages that allowed our children to continue their studies from home. These hampers allowed us to ensure our students received supplemental nutrition, gave us opportunity to check in with our school families, and ensured that education continued despite the restrictions.

Vida Schools remained closed in October at the end of the school year, with the government considering various restart scenarios for 2021.

Sponsorship

Canadians sponsored 1424 of our Vida students in 2020, and 309 Canadians sponsored one or more classes in our Vida schools. School uniforms were handed out just before schools shut down. We were able to offer food hampers to each Vida school family, and shoes are being delivered as we are able.

Short-Term Mission Teams

7 Canadian teams and 5 fieldworker groups served with Impact Ministries in 2020 before travel to Guatemala was halted.

Rio de Vida Churches

Church buildings, like schools, were closed in March. The Rio de Vida church pivoted to broadcasting online, even providing English translation of their Sunday Service for several months, allowing Canadians to virtually join their Guatemalan brothers and sisters. In-person Church services resumed in November and the Spanish service continues to be streamed live weekly.

The Rio de Vida Church was also instrumental in delivering food hampers, both to our Vida students and to community members in need.

Orphan Care

17 little ones have been cared for at the Vida Children's Home in 2020, some for days or weeks and some more permanently. We continued to offer love and refuge to abandoned infants, but also to somewhat older children who needed a home.

Emergency Relief

In many ways, 2020 saw Impact Ministries focus on emergency relief through lockdown food hampers and through the provision of shelter and necessities to many affected by the Tropical Storms. Thank you for enabling us to be the hands and feet of Jesus here in Guatemala!



Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6



Mission Statement

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.

Thank you for Growing Godly Leaders!

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Heartbreak and Hope

She came to the Vida Children's Home at just a few weeks old. She was a wee little one, weighing only 3.5 lbs. As we poured love into her life, she began to thrive.

She was the product of a gang rape in a community overflowing with strife. Her grandfather is a leader in the village. Young men from the opposing side of the conflict violated his daughter to get back at him.

The village is far away from Tactic. It takes hours on foot and by bus. The mother was too unwell to make the trip often, but the grandfather came to visit regularly. We gladly received him and we told him about God's love and salvation. We prayed for him and his whole family.

Then came the pandemic, and even the grandfather could no longer visit. Instead, he trekked to the closest phone to get updates - and to share that the family was now gathering to pray, as they had seen at the children's home.

Now the restrictions are being relaxed, and the grandfather is making plans for the family to come again. He says they feel an urgency because they want to learn more of the Gospel and to give their hearts to Christ.

We thought our Children's Home would be a place where abandoned children could grow up in a safe, Christ-filled, love-filled environment. But the Lord is extending our ministry to the families of these children. Isn't it absolutely amazing?!



The Answer to a Mother's Prayers

When Carlos' mother received her food hamper, she couldn't help but cry. That morning, she was so worried - she knew she didn't have enough money to buy food for her family. So she prayed and asked God to help her. When she saw the teachers arrive with a bag of groceries, she was overwhelmed with joy and thanksgiving.

This is just one story of the many we heard as we delivered thousands of food hampers to our Vida school families and others in need in our community. And the families want to say thank you!

From Jennifer's mother:

"Thank you for being moved by us in these moments we find ourselves in a crisis. I am grateful with my whole heart for the support that you've given us, for the groceries, for everything you've sent, we are so grateful to the Lord."

From Kore's mother:

"I am so grateful to you for the flour and the rest of the food for my children. We welcome this food, our Lord Jesus Christ will multiply it. I am so grateful, this day is very grand for us"

Thank you for being part of God's answer to these mothers' prayers!

Connect with Us!

We love sharing stories of what God is doing in Guatemala and we invite you to join us year-round in celebrating his everyday miracles.

Check out www.impactministries.ca/connect to join us on social media or to update your contact information so that you don't miss a single story!

And, if you have your own Impact story or photo to share, you can submit that to us at www.impactministries.ca/myimpactstory - we love hearing about how God has used Impact Ministries in hearts and lives around the world!

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