

Hands of Hope Int'l



“MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL
YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE
AS YOU TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT
YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH
HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT.”

ROMANS 15:13 NIV



As 2017 comes to a close and we begin to reflect on the time passed, it is apparent that it has been a year of challenges and changes, trials and tears, joy and jubilation. Yet, one thing remains, God has been faithful and we are so grateful!

This newsletter is dedicated to Janet Koop, one of the founders of Hands of Hope Int'l who passed away unexpectedly in October 2017. Janet loved life and loved the Lord even more. Although, she is now where she always wanted to be, in her heavenly home with her dear husband Don and for that, we celebrate.

Don and Janet both truly had a servant's heart; living each day for the good of our God. They believed that to whom much has been given, much is expected. They were forever humbled with how God had blessed them, so that they in turn could bless others. They knew their heavenly treasures were the ones that mattered most and they believed in the importance of being the "hands and feet of Jesus" daily. As we reflect, they will be remembered for the huge impact they have had on so many people around the world. Don and Janet will be missed but not forgotten.

As the leaves begin to fall, the winter coats begin to make an appearance, and the site of 80-degree weather begins to fade in Michigan, we can't help but praise God for allowing us to go through seasons of change. Whether it be a season of hardship, a season of contentment, or a season of silence; they all allow for growth. So, it is with an eager heart that we announce Hands of Hope Int'l will be undergoing its own season of change and starting January 2018, **Hands of Hope Int'l** will be called **Global Faith Network**. We know, we are excited too!

On top of that, we will also be launching a new website and hope you will find it more interactive, purposeful, and informative. We understand change is hard but it has come to our attention that there are many "Hands of Hope" organizations on the internet and coincidentally several of them in third world countries; further hindering our growth and limiting the amount of hands that we could be touching. Although, we want you to know that we will still be involved in the same ministries we have been in the past and will be keeping our same mailing address.



**Global Faith
Network**

2018

www.globalfaithnetwork.org

On behalf of the Hands of Hope Int'l team, we would like to thank you all for your prayers and generous support over the years. We ask that you would continue to remember us in your year-end giving in an effort to make a difference in the lives of our friends in Guatemala.

Thank you!

JP & Suzanne Koop, Brett & Greta Huizenga, and Shawn & Cheri Hulst



2017 FINANCIAL IMPACT:

How your gifts have made a difference!

Gary & Rachel de León, Missionaries

With much excitement and praise, we are pleased to announce that Gary & Rachel, and son Xavier, are expanding their family! Glory to God! Please pray for protection and good health during this pregnancy as they await their precious gift.

Gary and Rachel both serve as missionaries at an organization called AMG. They have worked very hard to make a difference in the community that offers very little hope to the people that live there.

Gary's role is the Public Relations Director for AMG. Currently, he is working to not only expand the ministry's national sponsorship program but is also overseeing the new youth program called COLOCA, which provides life skills and training for job opportunities to at-risk youth. Gary is very excited about the opportunity to work with kids at the most critical phase in their lives from a very holistic approach made up of an intellectual, social, physical, spiritual and emotional aspect. It is certain that his greatest passion and focus is working with kids; God is on the move!

Rachel is the director of the Family Preservation -- Orphan & Widow Care program whose mission is to see at-risk families remain united so that, with the support of their care-givers, the children grow up in a stable home. Rachel's team has partnered with 9 local Guatemalan churches, which are now working with over 100 families and more than 300 children! These churches are in the at-risk communities, and know the needs of their families and have a passion for caring for the most vulnerable. They believe that to invest in the churches and their leaders, they will then be able to best care for the community and have a lasting impact.



Immediate Needs:

- Gary, Rachel & Xavier will be traveling to Brazil to meet with their mission leaders and renew their commitments so that they can continue to work in Guatemala. They will be meeting with their donors to raise money for their ministry. Please pray for safe travels, good health, and that God continues to provide for them.
- Pray for God's direction on the grant they applied for with USAID and Mercy Corps to help expand the Job Placement program.

COMING
IN 2018



Global Faith Network

www.globalfaithnetwork.org





Tesoros de Gracias-Cannalitos

Pastor Erwin "Shorty" Luna: On Sunday, October 29, he brought over 300 people, from four different zones together to celebrate Día de Niño (Day of the Child). Rival gangs attended with their families and Shorty was able to talk to them. He told the story of

Cain & Able, and asked if they would kill their own brother? They responded with a vehement "NO!". He then explained that their neighbor is their brother and how important it was to love your neighbor. There has been too much violence and killing between the gangs this year, and it needs to cease. He's hoping they will remember the teaching as they go back to their communities.

Shorty ran the youth safe house called Casa Hogar for the past 2 years. This was a place for boys and girls ages 10-20 years old placed there by the government and proved to be an ever-challenging home. The circumstances these adolescents experienced to be placed here were atrocious. Shorty worked very hard to help restore their hope and help them to heal. Many of them had never been to church or heard the gospel. Shorty introduced them to Jesus and several became believers with all their heart.

The home closed in November 2017 due to unrealistic expectations and lack of financial support from the government. They were requiring a full-time social worker, full-time teacher and part-time Psychologist, and a relocation of the home. They expected Shorty to provide this and were unwilling to offer any type of assistance. This was very hard for Shorty but has not stopped him.

On top of that, Shorty also started two new churches this year, making seven churches in all. He preaches five nights a week and is very busy. He is very thankful for all God has done for him this year and feels very blessed that he can share the good news of Jesus with others in an effort to change their lives. Although, he has suffered persecution from one of the most violent gangs in Guatemala because of his efforts to change the youth of today and it is with a heavy heart, we announce that he has been in hiding for the past 3 months as it is not safe for him to stay at his home. This has been very difficult for him.

Immediate Needs:

- Please pray for protection for Shorty as he is still under persecution from the gangs.
- There are 152 children that need school supplies starting in January. Shorty's ministry pays 60% of the cost, and the families pay 40%. The cost of school supplies is approximately \$75.00/student for the year.
- Money for Christmas baskets so that they may bless their church members and community. There are 60 families that they would like to give a Christmas Basket to. The cost of one basket is \$40.00.



Tesoros de Gracias-Sakerti

Pastor Jorge "Little Gee" Hernandez and his wife Marlen, are deeply rooted in their community through their church and daycare.

Enrollment for the Christian daycare is at capacity with a waiting list growing for 2018! Because of this, both Marlen and another teacher Lucy, are

taking classes to become certified teachers, which will bring the day care to a new level and allow them to meet the community's needs. On top of that, backpacks and shoes were donated in abundance for those in need.

Their church is growing and they feel very blessed that so many in the church are like their family. There are several small groups that meet during the week and the numbers are growing. They are in the process of establishing a formal ministry plan to determine deacons, elders, church council, etc.

The Elderly Ladies Program had some changes and it is with a heavy heart that we say, Patty, having lived to be 85 years of age, experienced a very sorrowful death. It was very sad but we are blessed to be able to be a part of her life. Her family abandoned her in the streets several years ago but the other women in the home found her and offered her a place to stay. You could say they became her *familia*. We had the opportunity to spend time with Patty this past summer while we were on a Vision Trip with Alive Ministries. She was so happy to have company and someone to spend time with her. We had a birthday party for the group, painted their nails, ate lunch with them and had cake. Though it may have rained, the rainbow of God's promise was ever present in our time.

A new kids program started this year in Granizo led by a very brave lady named Miriam. Miriam is from the community of about 15,000 people, which includes about 30 slum communities. It is worst in Sakerti. She felt God put on her heart the need to start an after-school program to share the gospel to the youth in the area. She rides her moped 10 miles, three times per week, bringing over 35 kids together to meet. She has been kicked out of her home for her Christian beliefs and has been ostracized by her family. She is living with friends right now and still travels to Granizo. Currently, they are looking for a home in the community that they can start a church plant in, hold the kids program in, and allow for Miriam a place to stay.

Immediate Needs:

- \$150.00/mo. for rent to establish a church plant for Miriam and the Kid's Program in Granizo.
- Prayers for continued growth in the church.
- Prayers for Marlen and Lucy as they attend training.





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Why Support Our Ministries?

We hope that you will "see" the work the grassroots leaders are doing and the difference they are making in their communities. Thank you for supporting our shared vision of Christ-centered social and spiritual renewal in Guatemala.

Please join us in making a difference in someone's life with your year end giving.

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