



# Global Faith Network

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

## WE ARE CLOSE TO FINISHING ANOTHER YEAR!

As we reflect, we see there have been many changes in 2021. For some there was the loss of a job or a change in career, for others there was loss of a family member or a friend. We pray for the families that have gone through such pain. In this newsletter we want to celebrate the lives of those who have continued working in Guatemala throughout the pandemic despite the difficulties, losses, and restrictions. They have made it possible for families, children, and young people to have a place to go when school, church and local ministries have been closed – and in some cases, remain closed. Many children have no other option than to stay home, and in many situations, by themselves.

## GO GUATEMALA

We celebrate the life of Pastor Alex and his wife Evelyn with *Go Guatemala*. They've struggled to keep *Go Guatemala* open in the face of curfews & restrictions implemented for all educational institutions. They have found ways to make sure the children in their program continue receiving nutritional meals during the week as a non-profit organization and humanitarian aid. Also, *Go Guatemala* has kept their educational program, *Big Brother*, running so kids can continue having a safe place to spend time and use computers with access to printing materials and wifi.



On September 8, 2021, Mercedes Ruano, Pastor Alex's mother went to her eternal home with Jesus after being in the hospital for several weeks. Mercedes was one of the founders of *Go Guatemala* and helped cook for over 10 years. We honor her life as mother and tireless supporter of education and gang prevention in Zone 18 of Guatemala City. Her legacy will continue throughout the years.



## NEEDS & PRAYER REQUESTS:

**BIG BROTHER:** There is a need for Chrome books so children can attend classes and complete homework. Each of the three Big Brother locations is in need of 10 Chrome books for a total of 30. \$135.00 each for a total of \$4,030.00

**CHRISTMAS DINNER:** *Go Guatemala* will provide a Christmas event and dinner to 300 children. They are raising 50% of the cost for the meals within Guatemala. Help the children receive a Christmas dinner for only \$6 per child. Total needed: \$900.00.



## TESOROS DE GRACIA SAKERTI

We celebrate the lives of Pastor Jorge & Marlen Hernandez. This year both were affected by the coronavirus and Pastor Jorge had a really hard time recuperating. Praise God they are both well now. We are very grateful that in the middle of this hard year they have been able to accomplish several goals, including the construction of a third floor to provide an additional classroom and offices for their church and day care.

## THE CHURCH

Sakerti has continued to be open so people can go and worship in person and continue to broadcast on social media for those that are not able to come. Their children's program in Granizo has been going strong every week. Marlen and Jorge continue to give their support to the elderly in Sakerti.



## LOVE & LAUGHTER DAY CARE CENTER

2021 was a very difficult year for their educational program. They were able to have children participate in their day care and education program in person and remotely. They only were closed 3 days the entire school year. Marlen and her staff were able to serve 24 children in this school year. We can appreciate the smiles on their faces at the graduation ceremony. What a blessing for each of the children to continue receiving the love and care at Love & Laughter. **This year they did receive their legal authorization from the Department of Education from the government in Guatemala to be open hybrid & virtual. Praise God!**

## NEEDS & PRAYER REQUESTS:

**JORGE & MARLEN:** Prayers for them and the leaders of their ministry. The enemy is always trying to attack and destroy their lives. Pray for their relationship with God and each other as they serve together. Pray for their marriage to be stronger every day, for their two beautiful daughters, for their health, and their ministry.

**CHROME BOOKS:** Only 9 children have tablets to do their school work. They are in need of 15 additional Chrome books at \$135.00 each for a total of \$2,025.00.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Tesoros de Gracia Sakerti having their VBS in Dec. Prayers that they will be able to take the Word of God to children this year in three different locations. Two in Sakerti Zone 7, and one in Patzun - 50 miles away from Guatemala City in a rural area.



## TESOROS DE GRACIA CANALITOS



We celebrate the life of Pastor Erwin Luna, Shorty, his ministry, and each of the pastors that are leading at a Tesoros de Gracia church. It was a blessing that all of the six churches were able to remain open during the pandemic; some are having their services outside so people can continue to hear the Word of God. We continue to pray for safety for the churches as they are all located in red areas of Guatemala City where violence continues to take the lives of many young people.

Help us celebrate the lives of each pastor as they serve their communities in Guatemala City:

**SANTA FAZ - ZONE 6:** Pastor Shorty is the lead pastor of this church and he has seen many people come together to worship the Lord. People are hungry of the Word of God.

**SAKERTI - ZONE 7:** Pastor Jorge Sipaque has continued work in the community where he is from. He and his church have cleaned parks in the community allowing children a safe and clean place to play. Sharing the Word of God through games, sports, activities, and parties has led to many children and their families coming to know Jesus.

**CANALITOS - ZONE 24:** Despite the harm local gangs attempted to cause Pastor Abigail Rodriguez and his family this year, they continued to preach God's word and create change in their community. They were able to open a public water faucet as there is no running water in there. God is good!

**LOURDES 1 - ZONE 5:** Pastor Abi also works on this side of La Limonada. This church has had some dark times due to the violence of gangs. Despite this, they have been able to continue having their doors open to people who want to find rest in Jesus.

**LOURDES 2 LA LIMONADA - ZONE 5:** Pastor Marco Tulio Lopez, at 66 years old, is the oldest pastor at Tesoros de Gracia Canalitos. But you would never know, his spirit continues to be strong and he continues to reach out to his community by serving the children and their families every week.

**LA ALAMEDA- ZONE 18:** Pastor Rafa - Rafael Valiente celebrated their first anniversary this year. The Alameda church is the most recent church plant of Tesoros de Gracia; they started with 30 families and today have over 40 families coming to church several days a week. Their feeding program has been able to serve over 70 children and their community has been learning how to give. This recent anniversary celebration was paid for 100% by people from Zone 18. What a blessing!

## NEEDS & PRAYER REQUESTS:

**SPONSOR A PASTOR:** Pastors from Tesoro's de Gracia Canalitos are committed to working, serving and sharing the good news of the Gospel all year long. Help us sponsor a pastor with \$100 per month.

**EDUCATION FOR 2022:** Pastor Shorty would like to bless their 56 sponsor students that will continue school in 2022. \$25.00 for a school supply bag for each of them for a total of \$1,400.00





## VISION TRIPS FOR 2022

Global Faith Network is happy to announce that our Vision trips are officially open for 2022! We will continue working with ministries/churches that we have been supporting and with new partnerships and new leaders of ministries, churches, and local business.

**Our Vision:** To see a world where equipped leaders create sustainable communities.

**River Crossing Church** in Ohio is going to have three different vision groups visit the ministries they, along with Global Faith Network, have been partnering with for many years. Together we will continue loving and serving the local leadership. [www.riverscrossing.com/global/](http://www.riverscrossing.com/global/)

**The Zero Collective Churches** and Global Faith Network are also beginning a partnership to go to Guatemala and serve alongside the pastors, leaders of different organizations. We will continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus. [www.zerocollective.org/](http://www.zerocollective.org/)

Non-profits, businesses, churches, individuals & families have approached us about visiting Guatemala on a vision trip - which looks different than a typical "mission" trip. We go to support and be an encouragement to the local leaders and the work they're already doing. With the pandemic, we were able to understand even better the importance of local leaders and sustainable communities. Many foreign missionaries returned home when the pandemic hit. The local leaders were already home and continued their work.

**THANK YOU!**

JP & SUZANNE KOOP  
BRETT & GRETA HUIZENGA  
JOSE & ERIN ARMAS

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