



find sustainable ways of developing their projects. They are learning how to utilize communication, budgets, and perspectives as tangible resources. It's been challenging and joyful to see the network ministries walk alongside one another to develop community.

and local business men & women, and will be such a blessing to the community. They will be in the neighborhood one day a week offering dental hygiene at affordable prices and creating a culture of dental care.

Dear Friends and Family,

2016 has been an emotional year. A year filled with great joy and much sadness. In March, we lost one of the founders of Hands of Hope Int'l, Don Koop. Don died at the age of 79. He was a wonderful man of great integrity, compassion, and unbelievable faith. He truly had a servant's heart. He loved his family and helping others. His legacy lives on in the hard work being done in Guatemala.

### **CMT Guatemala**

In January, CMT moved their offices into downtown Guatemala City, at the heart of the Historical Center. This has given them the opportunity to be in more contact with the historical, political and social contrasts of the city. It has also allowed them to be more accessible to many government and non-government entities so they can have a greater impact networking.

*"Leadership in Community-based Focus"* has been the training program this year, and quite successful it has been! There are 9 initiatives that CMT has been nurturing along with 5 local organizations. It has been exciting to see these urban leaders learn, listen, share, and empower one another to



### **Tesoros de Gracias-Canalitos**

The highlight of the year for Shorty was seeing his daughters for the first time in 15 years!! Sara and Priscilla traveled to Guatemala to spend 10 days with their dad. Words cannot describe the level of emotion for all involved. Many tears of joy to say the least- God is so good!

Shorty has been very busy. He started a shoe factory in La Limonada with 5 active gang members. They are being trained how to make good quality shoes that can be sold in and around their community. The goal is to see gang members come out of their current lifestyle and give them the opportunity to learn a skill to support themselves to have a better life. The profits are being used as income and a way to support the ministry.

In Canalitos, a new ministry is being launched at the church: a dental clinic! This is in partnership with CMT



### **Tesoros de Gracias-Sakerti**

Little Gee and Marlen have had a wonderful year in Sakerti. God has been so faithful and doing great things in their community. Blessings abound! They have seen huge spiritual growth in their church; families are walking with God in tangible ways; 23 people were baptized; they are establishing elders, church doctrines, elder affirmations and discipleship material due to the increase in church size. They have 25 youth from some very hardcore areas of Sakerti regularly attending their youth program. So much to be thankful for!

The Elderly Ladies program is still part of their ministry, however it has been a sad year for them. Two of the residents have passed away. Arkandia, 106 yrs. old and Maria, 87 yrs. old. While it has been a challenge to financially meet their needs every month, it has been a blessing for these ladies to receive God's love and gospel from Tesoros de Gracias.



## **AMG/At Risk No More**

Gary and Rachel de Leòn have had their biggest blessing yet...a new baby boy!!! Xavier Eduardo de Leòn was welcomed 10 days early on

July 18, 2016. He has already proved he has his parent's genes! He's a fighter and can persevere. Rachel was very sick with Typhoid during her pregnancy. She was in the hospital several times and they were very concerned about the growing baby inside her. They traveled to the United States to seek further medical treatment as they did not know what to expect once the baby was born. By the grace of God, Xavier came into the world healthy and happy with no known side effects. The de Leòn's are back in Guatemala and

are continuing with their ministry.

Gary is launching a new educational campaign geared at local Guatemalans. The intent is to teach them to engage and be active in their own communities. Education is important for children. AMG has over 8,000 students in grades K-12 in Guatemala. Every child that attends an AMG school is sponsored. Encouraging local businesses and families to invest in education will only help change the culture and future for their children.