

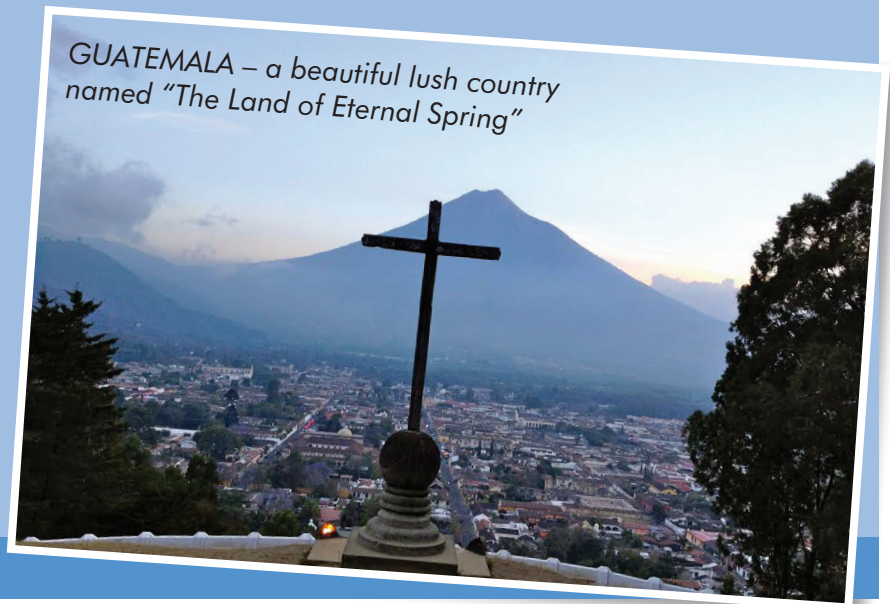
DECEMBER, 2014

# Hands of Hope Int'l



"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR  
YOU DECLARES THE LORD,  
PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO  
HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU  
A HOPE AND A FUTURE."

JEREMIAH 29:11



## OUR MISSION:

Engaging people  
and connecting  
resources.

## OUR PURPOSE:

To walk with  
Grassroots leaders  
as they change the  
world they live in.

## OUR VISION:

To see a world  
where equipped  
leaders create  
sustainable  
communities.

## Who We Are:

It is the end of 2014 already! Reflecting back, it seems prudent to take a look at what Hands of Hope Int'l, through your generous donations, has been able to accomplish.

Hands of Hope Int'l exists to support grassroots organizations already operating in Guatemala. We come alongside area Guatemalan leaders to get their ministries off the ground and organized. We work behind the scenes offering accounting and legal support, organizational training, and fundraising in order to help them establish themselves legitimately in Guatemala.

Initially, we went to Guatemala to start a new organization to work with the poor. While we were there, we saw several organizations already doing the work we sought to do. More importantly, we saw local Guatemalans doing the work we were looking to do. Over a period of time and several trips, we realized that the local people know how to minister to their own people. Any work we would try to do, would fall short of the excellent work already being done by the local Guatemalans, who have a passion and a calling to show the love of Christ in their own country. We saw them serving and struggling to get their organizations off the ground.

Why would we come down to Guatemala as "outsiders" and try to outdo or reinvent the work

already being done? Instead, we felt led to support these local people and organizations in their work through "behind the scenes" assistance. We are their "hands of hope". Our goal is to work ourselves out of a job! We believe being good stewards of the money entrusted to us means that the work we support will continue to be done LONG after we are gone. By establishing a foundation for each organization, we allow each of these organizations to move forward, freeing them up to do the ministry they feel they are called to do and ultimately sustaining them long-term.

The organizations we are currently working with are outlined in this newsletter. All are run by people who give everything they have (time, talent, money) for those they are serving. We consider it a privilege to be closely involved with what they are doing.

We would enjoy talking with anyone about what is happening in Guatemala. We ask that you join in the exciting work we are supporting with a year-end gift to come along side us and be "Hands of Hope" to these organizations.

Sincerely,  
JP & Suzanne Koop  
Brett & Greta Huizenga



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# At Risk No More

## AMG Guatemala

AMG, which stands for Advancing the Ministries of the Gospel, is a worldwide organization operating in over 30 countries. AMG Guatemala currently serves more than 8,000 children and youth from local slums through 28 Christian schools, a hospital, medical and dental clinics, as well as scholarship programs.



At Risk No More is a division of AMG Guatemala. Our close friends, Gary and Rachel DeLeon have been with At Risk No More for the past three years. They returned to Guatemala City in August after completing eight months of missionary training courses and support raising from Rachel's home church.

Upon returning, Gary has now taken on the position of Director of Network and Alliance for all of AMG's partnerships in Guatemala. With 5,000 orphans and 32,000 churches in Guatemala, the ministry saw a need to create a movement and change the mindset from anti-adoption, to opening people's hearts and homes to the orphans. This led to the creation of an alliance of organizations such as ACH (Christian Alliance for Orphans Guatemala) with the purpose to help create awareness, equip and empower the churches in Guatemala to care for the orphans in their community. A new partnership with Guatemala City has developed and opened up a new Christian elementary and middle school for more than 120 children and youth that live around the city's garbage dump.

Rachel also has taken a new position as Director of Family Care at AMG. This includes working with local churches and families. Sew Hope is a new ministry that has grown out of ministering to the single mom's of students. It is a mentoring program for the at risk moms in the community who have students at the schools. Along with creating a feeling of self-worth and self-sustainability, the women are sewing beautiful items to sell such as coffee bags, t-shirts, polo shirts and now are sewing the uniforms for the students.



### PRAYER SUPPORT:

- Pray for unity and strengthening of the staff at AMG, and that God will provide for resources to hire additional staff members.
- Pray for the national government to allow our ministry to become more involved with foster care.
- Thank you for your support, for joining this ministry and for loving Guatemala!



# Treasures of Grace

## Tesoros De Gracia Canalitos and La Limonada/Zone 1



The mission in Canalitos, La Limonada, and Zone 1 are all led by Erwin Luna, (Shorty). The mission has two focuses: the local community churches and the home shelter. The home shelter is a safe environment for youth and adults who need short-term

housing until they can get their lives back on track. This year Shorty has seen many challenges on all fronts, and God continues to provide and lead Shorty to do His Kingdom work.

Recently, a 12 hour long baptism service was held at a local park. Four school buses transported 250 people from Shorty's three churches. They did this in celebration of the Guatemalan holiday, "Day of the Child". It was a wonderful day for everyone!

**Canalitos Church** - Dynamic worship services are held 4 days a week in the evenings at Casa Hogar, the home shelter. 80-100 people attend every service which is a huge blessing due to the fact there are many gangs in the area that try to prevent people from attending church. A woman's Bible study was started on Thursday mornings and has been well received and attended!

**Zone 1 Church** - 35 people regularly attend the services that are held twice a week. They meet in different homes because they do not have their own church building. Pray for protection as they continue to meet to worship.

**La Limonada Church** - Shorty leads 3 worship services a week and has a special children's program on Saturday's attended by 40-60 children. Pray for security and safety as they attend these services in this dangerous area.

**Casa Hogar (Home Shelter)** - Currently home to 34 residents. The residents are allowed to stay a maximum of 6 months. During their stay, they receive counseling, are required to help at the house and attend vocational classes. Casa Hogar works with residents to find employment and housing.

### PRAYER SUPPORT:

- Shorty is very busy overseeing the home shelter, his church plants and holding 9-12 worship services a week. Pray for safety, focus and leadership for him.
- Pray for Casa Hogar. The owner is selling the home and Shorty needs to either raise funds to purchase or find another property.
- Praise God for the scholarships and school supplies that were provided to the children.





# Treasures of Grace

## Tesoros De Gracia - Sakerti



The mission of Tesoros de Gracia-Sakerti is led by Pastor Jorge Hernandez (Little Gee) along with his wife Marlen. Their focus is to grow deep roots



in their church, their day care/preschool, and their community. 2014 has brought many blessings! Little Gee & Marlen were blessed with the birth of their second daughter, Melody.

The church family of Tesoros De Gracia has been diligently working raising funds the past two years

to complete the construction of their new church. Their diligence has resulted in receiving a grant which has allowed them to finish most of the second floor of the church this fall. The second floor will host classrooms for the Daycare, Sunday School, Youth Group Ministry, and Vacation Bible School. Three years ago the church was held on chairs set up in the streets - God is good! Vacation Bible School has increased to 95 children compared to 40 in 2013. The new church building hosted a baptism of 12 area youths.



The Day Care/Preschool, Amor y Risas (Love & Laughter) has increased in enrollment from 30 to 50 children. The new facility will be open for when classes begin in January. It will be much safer for the children and more organized due to the fact of being in the same building as the church. An afterschool tutoring program continues to attract more youth. This provides them with a safe environment to learn and encourages good study habits.

There are 12 elderly ladies ranging in age from 65-104, that live in an abandon building. Tesoros De Gracia has adopted them and provides daily meals. The youth group helps keep the area clean and visits with them on a regular basis.

The Soccer Academy for youth ages 7-18 continues to grow. This has been a huge blessing to the area youth in giving them a healthy alternative to the bad influences that surround them. It also gives the coaches time to mentor to, and build relationships with these youth.

### PRAYER SUPPORT:

- Thank you for your prayers and support for our ministry.
- Pray for the Day Care as we start the new school year in January.
- Pray for God to continue to bless our church and it's members.

# City of Refuge

## Iglesia Ciudad De Refugio



Pastor Jorge Cerritos, his wife Anny, along with their four adult children and families, have had an incredible year this year! While it has not come without hardships or heart aches, there have been many joys as well. God has continued to provide for their ministry, City of Refuge in Villa Nueva.

The Cerritos family's vision is to be self-sustaining and be able to bless the

lives of people with limited resources in their community. Here are a couple of examples: 100 chicks were purchased with the anticipation that they will start laying eggs soon and provide food for those living in the house, as well as selling the extra eggs to help meet expenses. Recycled water bottles are used as troughs for food and water. Another piece of the sustainability of City of Refuge is the water purification system. It is nearing completion, waiting on funds for the final needed supplies. Once finished, this will provide clean water for the home as well as the less fortunate in the community.

Teaching life skills through community classes is part of the ministry at City of Refuge as well as after-school tutoring for the children. Building relationships is key for building the community of Villa Nueva.



**The Contare Program ("I Will Tell" Program),** a Christian-based mentorship program continues to grow. 2,100 children come weekly for Bible Study classes. They have partnered with Resourcing Now, a Non-profit organization that provides Christian literature for ministries serving in Central America.

### PRAYER SUPPORT:

- Pray for funds to purchase a vacant house in the community which allows more self-sustainability by providing an area for gardens, animals and a safe place for children to play.
- Continued prayers for good health. Sickness spreads so quickly.
- Continued prayers for the kids as they attend school and work hard on the subjects that are difficult for them.
- Prayer for the church and its members who are committed to fully participate and work where God has placed on their hearts.



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## Why Support Our Ministries?

The overhead expenses of Hands of Hope Int'l are completely covered by one of our founders. This allows every dollar you donate to go directly to the specified ministry. We commit to making sure the money you have entrusted us with is used solely for the glory of God and furthering His kingdom. We operate on the highest of ethical and financial standards and require the same of all of our partners.

Please join us in working with these truly gifted people on their journey to serve the Lord!



## Be a Part of Changing Someone's Life Forever!

YOU CAN SUPPORT HANDS OF HOPE  
INT'L AND OUR PARTNER  
ORGANIZATIONS BY  
MAILING DONATIONS TO:

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