

MARCH, 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: 1 1



GUATEMALA – a beautiful lush country named “The Land of Eternal Spring”

In The News

Check out our updated website at

www.handsofhopeintl.org



Who We Are:

Hands of Hope Int'l is a Christ-centered non-profit organization based in the United States.

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.

We are a compassionate ministry that works with and alongside established organizations serving the Lord. We are very proud of our partner ministries and all they have accomplished in the past year. These leaders have committed to being a part of a network of Grassroots leaders in Guatemala City. Through a local resource center called The Center for Transforming Missions, they have available to them:

- Leadership Training - affordable and accessible theological training.
- Spiritual Formation Training - focusing on how they can be stronger spiritual leaders in their church and community.

- Organizational Capacity Building Training - creating budgets, teaching accounting skills to help them establish clarity with the monthly funds necessary to become established and self-sustaining.

“Such work seeks to inspire and equip local leaders to be agents of transformation in the context of chronic poverty and violence”, states Joel VanDyke of Christian Reformed World Missions.

We were privileged to spend the last week of January in Guatemala working side by side with these core ministries, establishing their budgets and goals for 2014. We were fortunate to attend the Center For Transforming Missions “kick-off” meeting. Words cannot describe the feeling of sitting in a conference room with 50 Guatemalan Christian leaders who have committed to training that will further develop and improve their ministries.

Their faith and trust in God is so evident through their words and actions. The following pages are just a glimpse of updates and photos from our partner organizations.

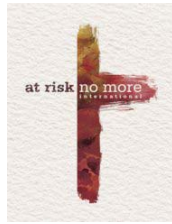


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At Risk No More

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. They have begun to partner with the Guatemalan government on a new foster care program. The responsibility of At Risk No More in this partnership is the promotion of church based foster care throughout the churches in Guatemala. They also minister to, and build relationships with the youth living on the streets.



Our close friends, Gary and Rachel DeLeon, have been with At Risk No More, for the past three years. Gary is Guatemalan, while Rachel grew up in Brazil. Scholarships brought them both to Kuiper

College in Grand Rapids Michigan, where they met. They are currently in Brazil completing eight months of missionary training courses and support raising. They plan on finishing the course work in June, complete their internship in July, and return to Guatemala by the beginning of August. When they return to Guatemala, they will resume their positions at AMG - At Risk No More, but as missionaries - funded through support from their church in Brazil and AMG.

PRAYER SUPPORT:

- Please continue to pray for the foster care program in Guatemala. Specifically for the churches in the slum communities that will receive training in May on how to best care for the orphan widows in their communities. Pray that the church will understand and apply this vision so many lives can be transformed.
- Pray for Gary and Rachel as they work on completing their missionary training.



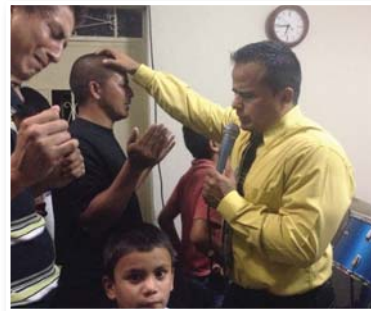
Treasures of Grace

Tesoros De Gracia Canalitos and La Limonada/Zone 1



The mission in Canalitos is led by Erwin Luna, (Shorty), and has two focuses: the local community church and the home shelter. The home shelter is a safe environment for youth/adults who need a short-term housing until they get their lives back on track.

Throughout the month of December, many people were blessed through the generosity of gifts of support. Seventeen youth, living in the home shelter, received "estrano" which is Spanish for "new clothes". A Christmas dinner for 70 was served in La Limonada, along with distributing \$12 gifts and 50 additional Christmas meals. Another highlight from the past three months was that Shorty and Little Gee witnessed the baptism of 17 new believers from their communities.



In 2014, God's blessings are abounding! Treasures of Grace has been able to provide financial assistance for 23 youth in Canalitos by purchasing their schools supplies for the new school year which runs from January-October. Scholarships have also been provided for six children from one family.

These children have earned this through their good grades from last year, and their enthusiasm for learning.

Finally, it is exciting to announce that Treasures of Grace has been contacted by the Guatemalan Government to explore the possibility of expanding the ministries and include rescued children and youth



at the Home Shelter. It is still too soon to know if this will happen, but just the fact that the government is looking at this mission is a true sign that their work is being recognized and is setting an example on how God's hand along with hard work, can bless and transform the country of Guatemala!

SHORT TERM PROJECTS:

- Purchase supplies so that a church member in the trade of shoemaking, can teach job skills to the youth as a way to educate them and give them job opportunities.
- Expand the work of the church, not only during the Sunday services, but by nurturing small Bible Study Groups within the church.

PRAYER SUPPORT:

- Thank God for job opportunities for the youth in the Home Shelter.
- Pray that God will provide a leader for the church in Canalitos.

Treasures of Grace

Tesoros De Gracia - Sakerti



The mission of Tesoros de Gracia in Sakerti is lead by Pastor Jorge Hernández (Little Gee), and currently has two main focuses: the church and the day care/preschool.



The church has been blessed to resume the further construction of their church. It now has new walls being placed for the second story as well as an additional set of steps for future classrooms. God has been and continues to be very faithful.

The church family of Tesoros De Gracia has started to serve in the National Hospital of Cancerology, by visiting and praying with terminally ill people. They have been able to provide some hope and comfort by sharing God's love.

The Day Care/Preschool, "Love and Laughter/Amor y Risas", has a current enrollment of 30 children. The community feels very blessed by this ministry. This means that 30 mothers have a safe place to leave their children while they are working. The doors are open in the afternoons for tutoring and homework support for the older youth.

A Soccer Academy is now up and running! With the help of men from the church, Treasures of Grace is able to offer youth from the community an opportunity to be part a soccer team. This is a great, healthy alternative group for these kids, despite the bad influences around them. It also gives the coaches time to minister to and build relationships with these children, with the goal being a mentoring program.

SHORT TERM PROJECTS:

- Finish the second story of the church before the rainy season begins in May. \$7500 for roof materials and concrete, \$2000 for electric, plumbing and supplies, \$3000 for labor.
- Train the female leaders in the church to start a breakfast feeding program and a second preschool.

PRAYER SUPPORT:

- Pray for God's provision and opportunity to open a shelter in a neighboring community.
- Thank God for how He has blessed the community and church.
- Pray for God's hand upon Little Gee and Marlene, as they are expecting a baby, due May 1.



City of Refuge

Iglesia Ciudad De Refugio



Pastor Jorge Cerritos and his wife, Annie, along with their four adult children serve together in the ministry, City of Refuge/ Iglesia Ciudad De Refugio.

The ministry in Villa Nueva continues to grow. This allows the Cerritos family to be better channels of God's blessings for others in their community.

Jorge and Annie have had the opportunity to train and equip the leaders and volunteers in each area of ministry. Because of this success, they have had the opportunity to financially bless volunteers who are key to the working in their community.



City of Refuge is excited to share that with the start of the new school year, they have opened the after-school tutoring program. Also, because of the help from donors, 11 children have been blessed with school supplies and uniforms.

The "Contare" program, which is a Christian-based mentorship program that City of Refuge has started in the local schools, has been very well accepted. They are working in classrooms in three area schools.

City of Refuge has planted a garden to help offset the cost of their feeding program. They are pleased to announce that the garden has begun yielding its first fruits! They have already received a great amount of cilantro, which is used quite frequently in cooking. The first crop of corn has also been harvested. It has been wonderful to have fresh foods to help sustain the family and feeding program. The latest addition to the Cerritos family are 20 laying hens. They are looking forward to many eggs!

SHORT TERM PROJECTS:

- Resume the legal aid program in order to help the women that come to the shelter.
- Pray for the children who are touched through the Contare Program.
- Finalize the water-purification system, in order to create self-sustainability for the home and church. This system will also be able to provide clean water for the people of the community with fewer resources.
- Complete plans for a micro-enterprise business for additional income to support the ministries.

PRAYER SUPPORT:

- Pray for a leader to lead our men's ministry group.
- Thank God for the health of members of the ministry team. Pray for daily strength to continue the mission.
- Pray for God's provision and faithfulness in all areas of the ministry.



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Why Support These 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!

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