

THE STORY OF HECTOR BEB

As a young man that has grown up in our ministry, Hector is now preparing himself to be a teacher in the future Impact Ministries Bible School. The Bible School is currently a "dream", but we have seen the Lord turn dreams into reality before. Hector is preparing himself to be a part of that future reality!



Hector came into our school at the grade five elementary level. He was part of our first junior high graduation class, and went on to further levels of study. Hector received his Bachelor of Education from a local university, and is now enrolled in a Masters program. Hector's ultimate goal is to complete his studies with a theology degree from SETECA, the largest seminary in Latin America, located in Guatemala City.

Hector worked in our ministry as a teacher for a few years, and then be-

came the principal of our Chicoy Vida School. Two years later, he became the overseer of both the Chicoy and the Mochán Vida Schools. Presently, he is the coordinator providing leadership to the three congregations of our Rio de Vida Church. Hector has a compassionate pastoral heart, and a fervent love for the Lord. He is a humble servant who is willing to pour out his life for those in need. Together, with his wife Ericka, and his little boy Ethan, we are very blessed to have him be part of our ministry.

Staff and students like Hector are being encouraged and funded by the Impact Ministries Staff Development Program. It is an exciting way to equip young men and women for service in building the kingdom of God. Please consider supporting this incredibly important aspect of our ministry.

A LETTER FROM LES AND RITA

Dear Friends and Family,

It's a delight to be able to greet you in this way and to share with you about the great things that God is doing in our midst. Just a couple of months ago, we had the joy of hearing the sweetest of words to a missionary's ears. The mayor of Purulhá invited us to accompany him to an outlying village belonging to his municipality. He informed us that there was no school and no church in this small rural community. He wanted us to meet the people who lived there, and invited us to consider opening a school in the area. We climbed up a hill to a makeshift meeting place that was set up under a tin roof and held up by a few posts. The entire population of the village showed up, and the mayor introduced us and shared with them his hope for our future involvement in the community.

We relayed to the villagers that the schools we establish have, as their priority, the children's spiritual welfare. Our goal there would be teaching their children to love God, read His Word, and to worship and pray to Him. Academic training would be a secondary goal. Knowing that these people were not Christians, we asked if this would be a problem for them. The president of the community assured us that not only would they want us to come and train their children, he and the adults in the village welcomed us to teach them as well. He said, "We will all become Christians. Just come and teach us. No one has come to tell us. We simply don't know."

What sweeter words could we hear? That is what it is all about; sharing the Gospel to those in darkness, and witnessing its power to change and free lives. It is a thrilling opportunity, and we praise God for the privilege of serving Him on the front line of battle in the highlands of Guatemala. Thank you so much for making it possible for us to be here. You are our support, our encouragement, and our joy. Thank you for being there for us.

Les & Rita Peters

Founders/Field Directors

P.S. As the Lord causes the "pieces to come together", we will be sharing more about this exciting opportunity via our email updates. If you have not already done so, please register your email address at our website, www.impactminusa.com/subscribe

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If you are on Facebook, you can join the "Impact Ministries Guatemala" group and connect with over 400 friends of Impact Ministries. Share your photos and stories with others, and stay connected to Impact Ministries!

Impact Ministries invites you to join our e-newsletter. If you would like to receive periodic news and updates via e-mail please visit www.impactminusa.com/subscribe to add your address to our list.



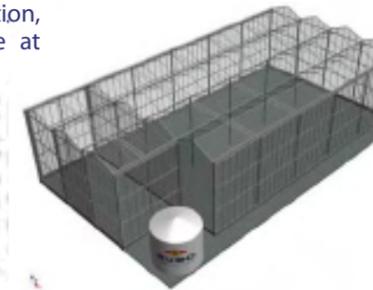
SEEDS OF TOMORROW PROJECT UPDATE

We are very excited as this joint venture project moves forward. Thanks to generous donations from Canadian and USA supporters, funding for the infrastructure portion of the project is now 95% funded! Constructing the road to the site of the greenhouse has begun and the site will be leveled shortly.

Employees of Kobo in Holland have been working to prepare the greenhouse sections to be shipped to Tactic through the month of March. Employees of Houweling's Tomatoes are anticipating their trip to Guatemala in June to construct the greenhouse and begin the process of teaching Impact Ministries staff how to operate it for growing nutritious food crops. Houweling's employees continue to raise funds to cover greenhouse construction costs. For more information, or to make a donation, check out our website at www.impactminusa.org.



Houweling's Tomatoes have created a promotional video outlining the Seeds of Tomorrow project. Check it out by following this link <http://youtube/u2xtCoOR44I>, or use your Smartphone to access the video from this QR code.



A SPECIAL INVITATION TO JOIN THE SPONSORSHIP-GRADUATION TEAM

Impact Ministries is pleased to announce that the Child Sponsorship Team for 2013 is scheduled to coincide with graduation exercises at the end of the school year, October 12th – 20th. The primary purpose of this team is for Sponsors to celebrate and participate in the Graduation Ceremony for their sponsored child.

This will be an opportunity for you to spend time with your sponsor child, and to attend the Graduation Ceremony at each of the Vida schools. It is an exciting time, and the children will be honored by your presence. You will be able to visit homes, participate in worship, and see all of the developments, including the medical/dental clinic, the new guesthouse, the greenhouse, and participate in other special events Les and Rita have planned for you. This will be a truly unique Team experience!

We are also excited to announce that this is a combined Canadian and USA team. The Team Leader will be Charissa Cummings of Canada. You can email Charissa at grad.teams@impactminusa.org, or call her at 587-876-0274 to register or ask questions. Information is also available from the Impact Ministries USA office at teams@impactminusa.org or by calling 617-855-5259.

We look forward to seeing you in October!

Upcoming Opportunities with Impact Ministries

Short-Term Missions Trips

We want to invite individuals and groups to consider joining Impact Ministries on one of the following upcoming specialized short-term missions trips. For more information or to register, please contact Tim Weaver at teams@impactminusa.org

Open Team Dates

June 23 to July 3, 2013

July 26 to August 5, 2013

If you want to participate in a short term missions trip this year, but don't have enough people to form your own team then join one of our open teams! Act quickly to secure a spot!

Vida Schools Graduation Trip October 12-20, 2013

This trip is designed for individuals sponsoring a child who will be graduating from either Grade 7, 9 or Grade 12. Graduation from Elementary school is a significant achievement, as the average amount of education in Guatemala is only five and a half years. Graduation from High school is very rare, as only 20% of Guatemalan students live in an area where they have access to High school education. This trip provides an opportunity to attend year-end Vida Christian School graduation ceremonies and celebrate this achievement with their sponsored child.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would be interested in assisting with short-term missions teams by acting as a Team Liaison or working as a Guest House Host, please contact Tim Weaver at teams@impactminusa.org.

These positions provide vital support for our guests from the US and Canada when travelling to Guatemala.

Team Liaison:

August 15 – October 20, 2013

Guest House Hosts:

May 24 – July 26, 2013

September 14 – October 20, 2013

GERRY BEAUCHEMIN

Dear Les,
Just a note of thanks for all that you did for our dental team. Our team saw 117 patients, and we averaged at least 3 treatments per person. So we treated at least 300 - 400 teeth.

The Guatemalans, Isaias and Elvine, whom we were training, were just wonderful. They showed true compassion and zeal for learning and serving. It was such a privilege for me to train them. Also, it was God's will to train Giovanni. What a sweet and loving spirit he has. I left him a dental kit so he can begin treating patients in his village right away. He called me recently to tell me he is already starting to do that. That's exciting!

I don't believe there is any other form of Christian ministry quite as powerful in demonstrating the love of Christ in the world, as serving people in their dental needs. Why? Simply because of the fear factor associated with dentistry. People fear the dentist everywhere, especially in the developing world. Our non-traumatic ART dental technique does not require anesthesia, electricity, compressors, or any other sophisticated technology normally associated with dentistry. We work with simple hand tools using a "feather touch" with extremely sharp instruments that we hand sharpen before each patient

treatment. Sharp instruments allow for very light pressure when cleaning out deep holes close to the nerve. We can do this without causing pain to our patients. It is a great joy for me to train missionaries to care for people in this way.

I also want to mention how touched I was in the school devotions and worship time in the mornings. Your teachers who led these special times did so with all their heart. They do not simply "do" ministry, they "live it", and it is evident in their actions. Having been involved in long-term missions for many years, I have seen ministry that is "done" and not "lived", and there is a big difference.

I shared with my wife Denise your invitation to return, and she is open and willing to come if the Lord should lead us that way. We would appreciate your prayers for our direction.



Blessings Les. Thanks for everything. I appreciate your love, compassion, and commitment to those you serve. You are an inspiration to so many! My deepest appreciation to you and your wife, and your whole team.

Gerry Beauchemin
Director Dental Training For Missions,
Brownsville Texas
www.dentaltrainingformissions.com

CHILD DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

I am very pleased to be a part of the Child Development program for Impact Ministries. Although this program supports the ministry by providing operating costs for the schools, it is so much more than that. It's hard to explain how special it is to have a sponsor for each of the children. And it's not the gifts or the money that make it special. I asked the mother of a sponsored child how it makes her daughter feel to have a sponsor. She said, "It's like having someone outside our circle, our family, who chooses to be a part of our lives and becomes part of our family. They make her feel special because they choose to help her, even though they don't have to and are far away." Many times when visiting families from our schools, I see the sponsor's picture on

the wall, among the pictures of the family. Letters are treasured and kept in a safe place to read again and again.

This year Impact Ministries has a total of 1,400 students enrolled in its 9 different programs. There are 674 girls and 726 boys! 252 of those students are in high school! Besides this, we have 36 staff & students that we are supporting in their university studies! To give children and adults the ability to read the Bible and understand it, is one of the greatest gifts we can give. It's sponsorship that makes this possible!

My job is mostly paper work. I gather information on new children coming into our programs, and I make sure each child writes to their sponsor and has their picture taken to send to their sponsor several times a year. Each of these letters needs to be translated into English before sending to Canada and the USA. Many people like to write personal letters to their sponsor children throughout the year, and these letters need to be translated to Spanish before they are given to the children. The children then write replies to their sponsor and those letters need to be translated to English... as you can see, this whole process takes a lot of time! Each letter is tracked by hand from the moment it comes into the country until a reply is sent to North America. There are approximately 500 individual letters that are tracked coming into the country each year from sponsors. There are also 2,800 letters being written and translated from all the children and their teachers each year! As well, there are approximately 3,000 pictures that need to be attached to the children's files and sent to their sponsors each year!

It's a lot of work but it is so rewarding to see lives changed!
Ruth Peters de Dubon
Impact Ministries Child Development Coordinator (Guatemala)



VIDA SCHOOL UPDATE

In Purulhá, the Vida school runs two shifts. Through the morning, the school is filled with Elementary students, and in the afternoon the Junior High students use the campus.

Julio Lem is the principal in Purulhá. Julio is a former graduate of the Vida schools. He received his teaching certificate, began teaching in our schools, and now is the principal.

This campus has also been the site of a cell group for the Rio De Vida Church. The cell group started with a hand full of children and mothers, and has ended up drawing over 100 people. It is now functioning as a growing congregation! The meeting room is now in the final phase of construction.



Elementary Students at Purulha



Julio Lem with Les Peters.

Mynor Toc is the principal of the Mochán Vida School. He and his wife began the 3rd Rio de Vida Church congregation in Mochán in February. This church plant is already growing. Please pray for them as they minister to this needy community. Mochán Vida School is one of our schools where, after the daily meal, students are being taught to care for their teeth. Prevention of further future decay is a priority as we address the dental issues in our students.



Les Peters and Mynor Toc with the grade one class of Mochán



Mochán students brushing their teeth.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

New construction at the Chijacorrál campus is close to completion. The offices and new classrooms, on the lower level, have now been completed. On the second floor, the walls of the new chapel are about 1/3 done. We are VERY overcrowded in this school, and, because chapel times are the highlight of our days, we are looking forward to the liberty and freedom we will have in this space.

The new guesthouse at Chijulhá is almost completed!



Front entrance of guesthouse.



Inside courtyard of guesthouse



Two story complex at Chijacorrál.