

## SENIORS TEAM

This fall, Impact Ministries' first ever short-term mission for seniors visited and ministered to the people of Tactic. Eight young-at-heart individuals had the opportunity to hug children, teach cinnamon roll making and knitting, visit sponsor children, and play soccer!

The highlight of the trip for the team members was when the kids worshipped and sang. The team members are glad they had this experience, and highly recommend this for all other seniors.

Stay tuned as plans are developed for another seniors opportunity to travel to Guatemala!



Our Mission...

"To train Guatemalans for leadership by teaching Biblical principles in such a way that they become integrated into their lives and effect spiritual change in their society and to impact North American Christians for World missions."

NEWSLETTER Volume 14 Issue 3

December 2013

## THE SWEETEST WORDS A MISSIONARY CAN HEAR

The mayor of Purulhá invited me to accompany him to a mountain village without a school or a church. He wanted me to see the community and to meet the people there. He informed me that they may be willing to provide Impact Ministries with a piece of land if we would build a school in their community.

At the end of the road, we hiked up the side of a hill to a small clearing in which a makeshift shelter had been erected. A curious crowd soon gathered as the entire village came to look us over.

The mayor spoke first, and, giving his talk in Kekchi, I was unable to understand a word. Then, without notice, he turned to me and asked me to speak. I began with a greeting and a word of thanks for the welcome, and then I began to explain our vision to these simple country folk.

"When a community provides us with a piece of land, we build a school, furnish it, staff it, and then we run it. Might they be interested in entering into this kind of an arrangement with us?" I asked.

But, before giving them a chance to reply, I continued. "There is something I must tell you though, before you consider your answer. We are evangelical Christians, and if we were to join hands with you to help your children, we want you to understand something. Our first priority would be to teach the students to love God, know His Word, worship Him and pray to Him. After that we give them the academic training; which for us comes in second place."

"I know that you folks are not Christians and for that reason I must ask, 'would you accept us teaching your children in this way?'"

The president of the community then stood to his feet. He looked me directly in the eyes and said, "If you come here and start a school for our children, we want you to start a church as well. We want you to teach us. No one has come to tell us. We don't know. We want to know. It is no problem for us. We will all become Christians if you come to teach us."



## GUESTHOUSE DEDICATION

Dedication of the Chisac guesthouse took place this past May. Mickey and Cheryl McCarthy, as primary donors for the project, were present as Walter Dubon cut the ribbon, officially opening the new facility. The new guesthouse will accommodate a total



of 40 guests, and will be 'home' for over 400 guests each year. The guesthouse has been built in a colonial style. The block and colonial tiles were hand-made on site by Impact Ministries staff. As well, students and staff did the woodwork, building the doors, windows, and much of the furniture.

## Contact Information:



Canada  
Impact Ministries  
Box 975 Station Main  
Kamloops, BC V2C 6H1  
canada@impactministries.ca  
(250) 434-4350



Guatemala  
Ministerios Impacto  
KM 184.5 Carretera a Coban  
Tactic, Alta Verapaz  
Guatemala, Central America  
guatemala@impactministries.ca  
(502) 5825-7640



United States  
Impact Ministries USA  
Box 550  
Duvall, WA 98019-0550  
info@impactminusa.org  
(617) 855-5259



If you are on Facebook, you can join the "Impact Ministries Guatemala" group and connect with over 600 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](http://www.impactminusa.com/subscribe) to add your address to our list.

## GRADUATION 2013



Left: First Grade 10 graduates from Purulhá.

Upper Right: Grade 7 graduates

Lower Right: Grade 1 graduates singing a worship song.



## Upcoming Opportunities

### Short-Term Mission 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 Bev Crozier at [teams@impactministries.ca](mailto:teams@impactministries.ca).

### Child Sponsorship Team August 14 - 23, 2014

This trip is designed for individuals sponsoring an Impact Ministries Student.

### Seniors Trip September 2-12, 2014

This trip is designed for the young at heart, but accepting of the reality of aging! This trip provides an opportunity for a mix of individuals from across Canada, both those who have never visited Tactic, Guatemala, and those that have travelled there in the past, to work alongside the staff of Impact Ministries in Guatemala and participate in a number of community outreach projects and cultural activities.

There are no sweeter words than these for a missionary, who is hungry to share the Gospel, and eager to have the Kingdom of God grow. I was blessed down to the socks on my feet, to be chosen to bring good tidings to a dying world!

- Rita Peters



## LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The mission of Impact Ministries includes training Guatemalans for leadership in order to effect changes in their society. For some, this process begins with children four years of age as they enter into our Pre-Kindergarten program in our various schools.

The children begin to lift their hands in worship to God, to bow in prayer, and to sing with joyful hearts unto the Lord. They also begin to study Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, Sciences, Art, Music, and every other course prescribed by the Ministry of Education.

As the children become adolescents, every opportunity is taken to implant a love for God, an understanding of His ways, self-discipline for living in obedience, and a vision for usefulness in His Kingdom.

Some choose wrong paths or become victims of others' wrong choices. Some give up and return to the deceptive and destructive generational cycles that have led to the poverty, injustice and violence that is found throughout Guatemala. Some leave our programs, disappear from our lives, and we never hear from them again.

But, there are those that press on. There are those that hunger for more. There are those who enter into enduring relations with the Lord. Many have hearts full of love for Impact Ministries, as they see how God has used the ministry to bless them and give them a way of becoming a blessing to others. These are the ones we seek. These are the ones we ask God to point out to us. These are the ones into whose lives we pour ourselves in order to raise them up.

A few months ago we began with our fourth "Leadership Training Class". These small groups of young men and women meet regularly for a three-year intensive discipleship program. They are eager, vibrant, intelligent, humble servants of God with huge expectations of God's plans for them.

Please pray for these emerging leaders whom the Lord is going to use to "turn the tide" in this next generation. The poverty and pain of the past IS yielding to the love and joy of the Lord. We ARE seeing a change!

## TESTIMONIALS



**Aydee:** *Impact Ministries has been a great blessing in my life, my family and my marriage. Through it, I have been helped economically as I have been helped spiritually. Thanks to this ministry, my life has been changing and I am here by God's grace.*

*I have seen this ministry as a house of refuge and strength wherein I find joy, peace, understanding and much love. Thank-you for opening the doors for me and giving me the opportunity to be with you because here I feel useful for the Lord and very happy.*

*I desire to do everything well, pleasing the heart of the Lord in order to serve Him in the best way. This opportunity is a gift from Him and I want to draw ever closer to Him so that I may produce the fruit that He desires. My prayer is that the Lord would help me to do all things with humility and by lifting up His Name on high.*

**David:** *I now understand perfectly that it is only by God's grace and His forgiveness that He blesses me every day. I am so thankful that the Lord wants to use my life in many ways, and be what it be, I want to obey His will and be in His service.*

*My longing is that God would use me how He wants, not how I want.*

*God began to show me, little by little and through His many corrections of me, that He has something very special prepared for my life and that serving in Impact Ministries is a great joy for my life. To serve in this ministry means to be close to God, to love Him more every day, to see and experience His abundant blessings and above all to sense His love in my life.*



**Henry:** *I used to think that Impact Ministries was an institution that was serving the people, but, since the moment I became part of it, I realized that it was not just to serve but also to love and obey the Lord. Impact Ministries has become a path of drawing me to God and where I find refuge.*

*This leadership training is a gift that comes from God to me; a dream, and I hope to be a humble person in this ministry because I know that with humility one can love the people that surround one.*

**Selvin:** *I have come to realize that being in God's paths, there is nothing, absolutely nothing, that you can compare to the love that He has for us.*

*I know that God wants to form me, and the only thing I can do is surrender my life to Him as the potter and that He mould this clay into a true servant in this ministry.*

*The ministry has become a second home to me.*



**Ignacio:** *Impact Ministries was an idea from God since it's beginning. It has now become an active work of God that has been more than a blessing for me and for many more. It is a place of refuge and comfort in many situations. It is a place where you can see many of God's miracles through which my faith grows stronger every day.*

**Maynor:** *I can honestly say that in my life, worshipping God is my whole desire and longing, and I want that to become my passion more and more.*

*Being in the leadership course is a challenge for me; it means I need to be more responsible, more mature in my actions, and above all keep my heart from all vain things. I am certain that this will be difficult because I am young and the trials are strong, but I will trust and wait on God because He has overcome the world.*



## PURULHÁ DEDICATION

In September, the Mayor of Purulhá formally presented Impact Ministries with the titles to land in the community of Villa Nueva, and property in the center of Purulhá. With approximately 600 students, family members, staff, and dignitaries present, the state judge spoke of the need for Biblical values, and endorsed the value of Impact Ministries. These two properties will open up two more ministry sites, and will have an impact on 700 students and their families.

A Christian school in Western Canada has expressed a desire to be the primary sponsor for funding construction and operation of Vida Nueva. Construction has already begun, and pre-registration is taking place with the goal of starting Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes in January 2014.



Several short-term mission teams have already walked over the future site of Purulhá Centro, and have prayed for the lives of the children who will come to know Jesus Christ. The plan is for construction on this school to begin in 2014 so that classes can begin the following year. Initial construction costs are projected at \$300,000, and funding for this project will be a primary area of focus for fall and winter giving opportunities. Please prayerfully consider how God would want you to become involved.

It is wonderful to see the way in which the community of Purulhá is embracing the work the Lord is doing through Impact Ministries, and it is our prayer that many more lives will be won for the kingdom.

## GREENHOUSE DEDICATION



On September 30th, the Seeds of Tomorrow greenhouse was officially opened, and is now fully functional for the seeding and propagation of young vegetable plants. With the help of KUBO Greenhouse Projects of Holland, Monsanto, volunteers from Houweling's Tomatoes, the staff of Impact Ministries, and locals from the community in Tactic, the project was completed in just under a year.



The greenhouse is a modern Venlo-styled structure, covering a total of 487 square metres, with a gable and roof ventilation system made with trip mesh to keep out moths, aphids and other insects. The greenhouse will increase community access to food crops, provide nutritious meals and agricultural courses for Impact Ministries' students, and allow parents to work in the greenhouse and take some of the produce to market.



**Thank-you to all the people in the U.S., Europe, and Canada who donated their time, money, and resources to make the Seeds of Tomorrow project a reality!**