

Dig Into the Excavator Challenge



A couple who participated on a short-term team in 2013, who own a small business, is doing something unbelievable in this day and age. They put any \$50 and \$100 cash bills they received for their work in the company safe for a very specific purpose. Most people would think this couple was saving for a special vacation, a home renovation, or a special gift for their children or grandchildren. But no! This couple is saving these bills with the intention of hearing from the Holy Spirit on how to use them in God's service. After several years of putting bills in the safe and being to Guatemala multiple times in the past, they felt God tugging on their hearts to see how much they saved and giving them the idea of purchasing an excavator to donate to a ministry in Guatemala.

Well their faithful saving over several years has become a donation of an excavator and trailer for Impact Ministries' construction team and the agricultural self-sustainability program. They purchased a used excavator in excellent condition and a rundown trailer with the initial money they found in the safe. The husband took the time and effort to replace all the tubing for the hydraulics system and have the excavator's mechanical components tested and refurbished where needed. His grandson took on the trailer as a school metal shop project, and now the refurbished trailer structure has a completely new deck and tires. While this family took on this project, bills continued finding their



Have you ever been on a short-term mission team? Do you remember doing what our friend Josh here is doing, digging and hauling dirt? Well, if you have been on a team, or ever will be on a team, you most likely participated or will participate in digging the foundations for one of our schools, clearing a parking area, leveling a soccer area, or creating a drainage ditch to redirect water away from the school walls, and any other type of digging project. Although there will never be a lack of moving dirt by hand, we have exciting news about a donation that will assist with the construction and agricultural arms of the ministry.



way into the safe, and now they are in the process of finding a good used diesel truck that will safely haul the excavator and trailer up and down the hilly terrain here in the north central highlands of Guatemala.

You might be asking, "Why are we learning about this one donation?" Well, Impact Ministries wants you to partner with us, and this couple. According to the preliminary assessments, the donation of the excavator and trailer will be approximately \$22,000. God has provided this incredible gift, and He works in ways that we cannot even imagine, nor can we predict. With that in mind, we are asking you to partner with Impact Ministries to ship the excavator and trailer to Guatemala. Initial estimates from the shipping company are approximately \$8,000.

Will you partner with us so we can receive this generous gift and get it to Guatemala where it will be a welcome addition to our ministry.

How to partner on the excavator challenge

First and foremost, take a moment to pray about how you might partner with Impact Ministries.

If you find God leading you to donate to the excavator challenge, you will find a remittance card and envelope in this newsletter. Fill out the information and send your donation to our office.

Or, you can use Impact Ministries USA's secure online giving site at: <http://tinyurl.com/IMUSAexcavatorchallenge>

However God leads, please pray for those who will be shipping, receiving and eventually using the equipment. Pray for safe passage, pray for a smooth transition through customs, and pray for those who will be operating the equipment.

LUIS FERNANDO – A MAN OF FAITH

As told by Ericka Cabnal: Leader of the administrative team overseeing the ten Vida Schools.



The sun continues to shine upon the Max-Saquil family, and it shines brilliantly in Luis Fernando, one of the five Max-Saquil boys.

Luis Fernando is 21 years old and has literally grown up with Impact Ministries. Luis studied in a Vida School from Kindergarten to grade ten, and then left in order to obtain his elementary school

teaching certificate. When Luis graduated, he came back to serve as a teacher in the Vida schools. Today he fulfills the role of vice-principal in our Purulhá Elementary School. We have marvelled at how he has grown in his administrative role, and how he is maturing in his spiritual life. Luis is also part of the Purulhá Rio De Vida Church leadership team. He shows his heart, his love and his faithfulness to the Lord by serving Sunday after Sunday, and leading one of the Purulhá cell groups.

Not everything has been 'rose-colored' in the life of this young man. Luis was born into an impoverished home, surrounded by liquor, aggression, and occult practices. When Impact Ministries appeared in their lives, it was a glimmer of hope for Luis, his mother and his brothers. All five brothers began to study at a Vida School, and his mother began to seek the things of the Lord. Luis shares that the arrival of the Gospel brought happiness and strength to overcome the drunkenness, the violence, and the anger of his father. This anger would flare up whenever the family attended church or spoke to him about accepting the Lord as his Saviour. Yet, as they went to church and to the Christian school, their greatest desire always was that their father would come to know the truths of the Lord.

Luis smiles as he remembers, "It truly was a miracle. As my brothers, my mother, and I cried out to God for the salvation of my dad, God heard us. Then, when the head of our family accepted the Lord, all our lives took a 180-degree turn." They began to notice changes in their father; when he would correct them he no longer used the handle of the machete or the television cord to hit them, he no longer abused their Mom physically or verbally, he was no longer angry when they went to church or when they spoke to him about seeking the Lord's will... everything changed. Luis goes on to say, "It makes me so happy to see my Dad changed. I see him so differently now. I pray that the Lord will continue to work and transform every area of his life."

This wonderful young leader and his family have passed through very difficult trials. Recently, Luis' five-day old little sister died. Luis confesses, "It was a decisive moment of accepting the Lord's will and re-affirming my faith, or breaking down in the face of this adversity." He shares that, along with his brothers, he prayed they would remain firm in the Lord, and would remember that the Lord has everything under His control, and that no incorrect words toward God would come out of their mouths.

It is truly surprising how Luis talks and shares about the pain his family has experienced. He now has two baby sisters with the Lord and waiting for them in heaven. In spite of this, Luis recognizes the goodness of the Lord, and already sees the purpose God had for his little sister's death. The Lord has used her short life to miraculously bring unity and restoration to the relationships between his father and his uncles.

Day after day, we see that Luis is a man full of faith. He is a great influence on those that surround him. Luis says, "I have decided to serve the Lord, bless the needy with my life, and always accept the will of the Lord." This firm declaration gives this young man a strong foundation.

When asked, "How is it that you got to where you are today?" he smiles and answers, "Because of Impact Ministries." "My Lord used this ministry to reach my life and that of my family. When I was little, we lived in an environment that was hopeless and unpleasant, but Impact Ministries came and truly impacted our lives. I saw fruit in my family, and especially in my Dad. God used this ministry as a channel to bring change."

Luis Fernando and his family are just a small demonstration of what the Lord Jesus Christ is doing through Impact Ministries in this little part of the world we call Tacit, Guatemala. Impact Ministries has the goal of raising up leaders, like Luis, to spread the kingdom of God to many people. With the ALMIGHTY GOD at their side, these leaders will make an impact on their community and on the rest of the world. Glory to God!



Impact a Child's Life...Become a Child Sponsor

Proverbs 22:6 reminds us, "Start children off on the way they should go, and when they are old they will not turn from it." (NIV)

Have you considered becoming a child sponsor? You are invited to partner with Impact Ministries and help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy in rural Guatemala. With your support, a child will receive a broad academic education at one of the Vida Christian schools, and be mentored with loving Christian discipleship. As well, the child will have access to a package of services that provides a daily nutritious meal, vitamins, and medical care.

As a sponsor, you will receive photos of your child, teacher's reports, and be able to correspond with them through letters or an app on the Impact Ministries website. Plus, you can participate in a special sponsor's trip and travel to Guatemala to personally visit your sponsor child!

For more information: please visit the Impact Ministries website at www.impactminusa.org or contact Jim and Marisa at child@impactminusa.org, or call 617-855-5259

Ashley Fulcher (Registered Nurse/Short-term Fieldworker)



I work as a Registered Nurse with Interior Health Authority in BC. Over the past many years I have come to love the people of Guatemala and how God is working in their lives.

This past spring I had the opportunity to work with Impact Ministries in Tactic for six weeks. It was such a blessing to be able to work alongside Impact's wonderful nurses, serving the people of Guatemala and the different teams that came down.

When I left for Tactic, I remember having a lot of doubts as to whether or not I could do this, to enter into an environment very

different from what I was familiar with, where people die from simple infections and children are starving. My prayers were filled with phrases like 'Lord, do they know that I am a new nurse?' and 'Aren't there better people to do this than me?'. The whole thought of what I was stepping into was overwhelming at times. However, God sometimes asks us to just take a step of faith, to trust in Him and take that step with Him.

People have commented how great it is that I was able to serve Impact Ministries, however, I feel as though I am the one who is blessed to be a part of what God is doing in Guatemala! It is so encouraging to see people lay their lives before God and be used by Him for His glory... to see how God can use people of all backgrounds to work together for his purpose.

I have been reading through the book 'Love Does' by Bob Goff. In one of the chapters, Goff talks about how God uses ordinary people to do beautiful things. God uses those who are willing, those who lean into what He is doing instead of stepping back. All we simply need to do is to say YES. My prayer now is that we continue to grow in God's love for us, and to trust Him as He works us into his "...most excellent harmonies." - Philippians 4:9 (MSG).



Medical Missions... Impacting Body and Soul

Do you have medical or dental training? Do you know of a doctor, or a nurse, or a dentist, or dental hygienist, or an optometrist, or a physical therapist that might be interested in medical missions?

Impact Ministries operates a medical clinic in Tactic, Guatemala, where visiting professionals from North America provide health, vision, and dental care to school children and their families. In addition to treating injuries, common illnesses, and providing instruction for good health, medical missions teams have the opportunity to share the love of Christ and live out Proverbs 15:30; "Light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones." (NIV)

For more information: contact Tim Weaver at tweaver@impactminusa.org

Meghan Morton (Photographer/Short-term Fieldworker)

Darkness. Pain runs rampant. Poverty afflicts people indiscriminately. Children are abused. Babies are abandoned. Sickness takes the ones we love, or worse, the ones we love betray us. When faced with darkness, we ask the age-old question, "If there is a God, why...?" Why is there evil? Why is there pain? Why the wounds? Why the hurt? We demand to know as though the God of the universe owes us an explanation for anything he does or permits.



During my time in Tactic and the surrounding area in Guatemala, I visited many of the Impact Ministries Vida schools. I met hundreds of children, many who don't have enough to eat in a day. Some are abused, and all are well acquainted with poverty. The children I met staggered me with their joy. I watched them in

their morning devotionals, and every morning in every school they put their whole heart into their praise. These sweet children own a promise

that I have yet to fully claim. The apostle Paul tells us that we are more than conquerors because of what Jesus did. I think this is something they know on a level that I don't. I know it academically, but they know it in reality. To them, it is a tangible victory. I am in awe and am inspired by these little hearts that have taught me so much. These little children gave me a picture of something I can only aspire to; absolute adoration of a God who can work all things together for good. In the midst of darkness, instead of denying God's existence, or demanding He explain himself, these little children embrace the victory offered to them.



"The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light..."
Matthew 4:16 (NKJV)

How Do You Measure the Impact of Your Life?

Opportunities are available for individuals interested in various extended terms of working with Impact Ministries. If you have a special interest in hosting short-term mission teams, or skills in teaching, construction, mechanics, pastoral development, or first-aid training, there may be a place for you in Guatemala!

For more information: contact Tim at teams@impactminusa.org or call 617-855-5259

Shoshanna Christie (Foothills Alliance Church)

Hola! I had never been on a missions trip before, and was unsure of what to expect when traveling to Tactic this past May. I knew only two of the seventeen people I was to be travelling with, and did not speak a word of Spanish. But, I very quickly found out that these 'limitations' of mine would not hinder my experience. In fact, I believe it gave God a foothold into my Guatemalan experience right from the beginning.

I knew I wanted to sponsor a child and be able to meet them while in Tactic. God granted this desire, and I am now sponsoring six-year-old Hellen. Meeting Hellen was easily one of the highlights of my trip, as her energy, smile, and enthusiasm for life were unmatched. The fact that we were unable to verbally communicate did not matter. As I got to know her through our translator, and by watching her interact with others, I began to realize how blessed I am to now be part of her life. My short interaction with Hellen brought so much joy to me, and provided a small glimpse of what God's love truly looks like. I am excited to be able to



watch Hellen grow and mature in Christ, and very much hope I get to visit her again.

Another highlight for me was going to the sinkhole in Chicoy, which is a large underground cavern used primarily for witchcraft. Here, our team worshipped as a group, and we each were able to spend some time reflecting alone. It was through this time that I began to understand how good God is, and how much He desires our hearts; not to control us, but to know true freedom in Him. As I looked up towards the light from the depths of the dark and mucky sinkhole, I was reminded of the hope He gives, and that there is always something to look forward to, no matter how low I may be feeling.

There is so much more to share, and I am still learning from my trip, despite being home now for over a month! It is obvious that God is doing incredible things in Tactic, and I am looking forward to hearing more about how God continues to change lives as the Guatemalan people experience Him.

Short-Term Missions...Long-Term Impact

Do you belong to a group of individuals seeking to make a difference in the lives of others? Consider participating in a short-term missions trip to Guatemala. You and your team members will work alongside the staff of Impact Ministries in outreach projects such as school construction, children's ministries, hospital visits, and other evangelism activities. Plus, you will learn about the historical and social challenges facing the people of Guatemala as you participate in a variety of cultural activities.

Impact Ministries' staff has close to twenty years of experience hosting short-term missions teams from schools, churches, and communities across Canada and the United States. A short-term missions trip is about being spiritually challenged and growing deeper in your Christian faith. Who knows, the life you change might be your own!

For more information: Contact Tim at teams@impactminusa.org, or call Tim at 617-855-5259



Short-term Team opportunities are being planned for 2015!

Please check the 'Teams' link on the Impact Ministries website for details on how to participate on a short-term mission team www.impactminusa.org/go-on-a-short-term-mission

Do you know a Christian School that is looking for a mission trip during their mid-winter or spring breaks? Is your church looking for a mission trip that will make a lasting impact? Is your church looking for a mission trip for their youth, a mixed age group families, pastoral or staff teams?

Impact Ministries has openings February through October.

Contact Tim at teams@impactminusa.org; or 617-855-5259

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