

## Team Hosts and Guesthouse Hosts Needed

How do you measure the IMPACT of your life?

Take some time out, grab a flight, and hit the ground running in Guatemala with a life-changing experience. You might even see a change in yourself as well.

We are currently inviting people who have been to Guatemala with an Impact Ministries short-term mission team to apply for Guest House Host and Team Host positions for 2015

**Team Hosts & Guesthouse Hosts needed: March 7 - 15; April 7 - 25; June 17 to August 6; and September 5 to October 5**

For more information visit our website [www.impactminusa.org](http://www.impactminusa.org) and click 'Get Involved' or contact Tim at [teams@impactminusa.org](mailto:teams@impactminusa.org)

### Upcoming 2015 Teams

Feb 9 – Feb 19 Dr. Tony Tom Medical Team, BC & US  
Mar 7 – Mar 15 Open Medical Team  
Apr 7 – Apr 17 Calvary Church, PA  
Apr 17 – Apr 25 Michigan Medical Team, MI  
May 1 – May 10 Dr. Tony Tom Medical Team, BC & US

## SULI: The Heart of a Sponsor Child

*"I am very thankful to the Lord for all the sponsors. Because of their help, the school has been able to grow. This year, even the Mochán School has a junior high school program. Thanks to everyone and especially to Les and Rita for having provided us the Christian school. Without the school I would never have come to know the Lord. But thanks for all the help through brothers and sisters from North America; I have learned to worship the Lord!"*  
- Suli -



school. Furthermore, good friends, and teachers that seek after the Lord are providing her with good advice. However, the most important factor in Suli's life is that God softened her heart. Suli knows that her dreams can come true, because she is living her life in a way that pleases God. This young woman plans to continue her studies to accomplish her dreams and fulfill God's purposes in her life.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. – Proverbs 22:6

If you sponsor an Impact Ministries student, we cannot thank you enough for the marvelous encouragement you have been in the lives of these students. Your letters, prayers, and donations are the reason that students like Suli have the opportunity to come to know the redeeming power of Jesus Christ.

### Do you know someone that would like to become a sponsor of a student like Suli?

Two hundred new students will enter the Impact Ministries Schools in 2015 and each one is in need of a sponsor. If you know someone that would like to become a sponsor of a student, direct them to contact Impact Ministries through our:

website: [www.impactminusa.org](http://www.impactminusa.org)

Email: [child@impactminusa.org](mailto:child@impactminusa.org)

Phone: 617-855-5259



## Contact Information:



### Canada

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If you are on Facebook, you can join the "Impact Ministries Guatemala" group and connect with over 680 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 <http://www.impactminusa.org/newsletter---subscribe.html> to add your address to our list.



### 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

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Issue 3

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## A Community Changing by the Love of Christ

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. - James 1:27*



Image courtesy of antpk at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

The growl of thunder could be heard in the distance as wild winds of a storm threaten to blow down even the sturdiest of houses. A blind widow in the village of Mochán huddled together with her five-year-old son in their humble rickety home, listened as the storm raged, making havoc all around them. When the gale winds finally stopped, all that was left standing was a piece of rippled tin roofing propped up by a few broken pieces of timber.

This storm is not the only one tormenting this small family; a storm against simple survival has swirled in and around Hermana Teresa for several years. The community of Mochán may be able to recover and reconstruct, but how will a blind widow pull through from the storms that surround her?

Mochán is home to a very precious and simple tribal people in the region of Baja Verapaz, Guatemala. Here mountains bind the skies, and many storms follow the valley from one end to the other. This community rebounds from the adverse weather, but has lived for many generations in a climate of spiritual division and confusion.

Evangelical churches have sprung up in this region, but the modest pastors left in charge depend solely on the offerings of their congregations for their daily needs. This causes great difficulty for them as they strain to draw in members and not bring offense in any way. You see, if God's truth upsets the people, they quickly leave a church and the pastor is without an income. Therefore, some pastors have been known to actively speak against other churches and omit key truths of the Bible so that their congregation would not shrink in size. All of this leaves little time to help the needy, and people like Hermana Teresa are left without an advocate in their community. Now God is raising up the Rio de Vida Church in the Mochán School, to be a true representation of God's love and lend a helping hand.

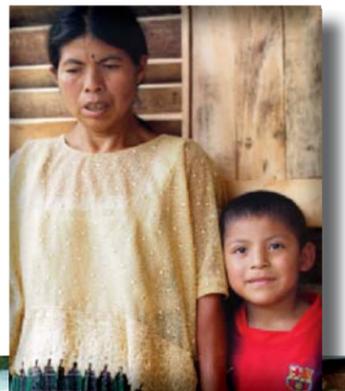
This new church plant in the Colegio Vida Mochán is a beacon for Christ in an area that has been antagonistic to the marvels of God's truths for many years. The leadership team in this congregation is committed to teaching the

pure undiluted Word of God, and being faithful to demonstrate the heart of God's compassion. As the church cell groups were learning from James 1:27, a seemingly forgotten woman, this needy widow of Mochán, became the centerpiece for an amazing work of God.

After a neighbor shared with her cell group about Hermana Teresa's demolished home, these brothers and sisters chose to put their faith into action and began the process of building a home for the now homeless widow and her young son. As the days progressed, the house took shape, walls formed, and the roofing materials were purchased. An amazing work of God in the lives of the Rio de Vida Church members took root when God's truth was being taught, heard, and put into action.

As Hermana Teresa's home began to take form, one man, who had been unfriendly to the church folk and hostile to the Gospel, began to take notice. He stopped by the construction site and asked what everyone was doing. The cell group shared how they were building a house for a woman in need. In that moment, God softened the man's heart. His tone changed and he said, "You will need some roof beams for this construction, correct?" He continued with this offer, "I have some at my home that you may use. I will go and bring them here right now."

Look at how much God accomplished through a blind widow's demolished home! Through the love of Christians putting their faith into action, an unbelieving community member was reached with God's truth in a new and fresh way. As well, Hermana Teresa is recovering from the physical storms that took her home. Moreover, the community of Mochán is in the process of seeing God calm the spiritual storm that swirls around them, causing division and confusion. God is at work in Mochán! Please keep the people of this community in your prayers!



## Mynor: God is Always at Work



When we see Mynor Toc, we may make a quick assessment of his slim stature, his seemingly young age or his quiet demeanor, and come to our own conclusions about him. Yet, Mynor is a humble servant of God. His stature, his age or demeanor do not

define how strongly God is working through him to reach the people of the Mocoacán area.

Mynor is the Director of the Chicoy Vida Elementary, Mocoacán Vida Elementary and Junior High School, as well as the leader of the new Mocoacán church plant. God is doing an incredible work in Mocoacán through Mynor's life.

*The problems we see in Mocoacán are family situations. Some of these children live only with their Mom and don't have a Dad taking responsibility for them. Another problem is their economic state. Without a father in the family, it is very difficult to find the money to have daily food and all that would ensure that they would be well provided for in their home.*

*Some fathers have work, but they use their money to buy alcohol, not to supply the needs that are truly important. This affects the children. They do not have what they need because their fathers misspend the money.*

This young Guatemalan leader is not only identifying and censuring the generational sins of his country, he has a clear vision of the answer for Mocoacán and a heart full of love for God and His truth.

*With all the children we have in these schools, God wants to lift up a new generation; a generation that recognizes Him, knows Him and serves Him in truth. That is what God wants; that they would not follow the customs they had before, but that they would follow the truth, which is His Word.*

## Just In from Guatemala!

This news is so new it barely made the newsletter!

The photo to the right shows the existing 20 acre Chisac property Impact Ministries owns boxed in blue and the available property boxed in yellow. The proposed orphanage could be on this new property. If we were to acquire this property it would provide several advantages over other similar properties including use of existing infrastructure and no need for 2000 feet of walls. All of these costs can be saved if we acquire this property vs. purchasing another separate property.

Watch your mail box for exciting news about how God is providing for you to partner with other generous donors to obtain this incredible property!

Or to make a donation today, go to [www.impactminusa.org](http://www.impactminusa.org) and click "Give Now" and select Orphanage Property in the program drop-down.



*Love and mercy is what God has in His heart for Mocoacán. In spite of the hardships that the people here face, God placed this school here and it has brought His mercy to this place. The children and the young people here have been able to have an encounter with the Lord. They believe and they have faith. They know that God is with them and that He is real in their lives. They know that God is working in them.*

*I sense that the Lord wants to use my life. I lived the same way that these children live, and I teach them that there is a God who loves them, that He has a good plan for their lives, that they can be someone great in the Lord if they allow Him to have control. God has done it in my life, and that is why I believe He wants to do it in their lives. My greatest dream is to teach them the truth and that they would reach and fulfill what God has for them.*

Mynor has come to know and to believe the love that God has for him. His passion is to speak the truth of God so that others are reached and fulfill what God has for them!

## Become a Monthly Sustainer

Impact Ministries has been serving our Savior for almost 15 years, proclaiming the gospel to children and families in the highlands of central Guatemala. During that time, God has blessed and grown Impact Ministries through the expansion of the Christian Schools and child sponsorship ministry, a clinic outreach, development of an agricultural sustainability project, and most excitingly through the planting of 3 churches and 18 small group bible studies across 5 communities. Each of these life-changing ministries rose out of your prayers and faithful gifts.

Today, Impact Ministries needs your help. We need to fill a widening gap between current needs and current monthly funding to create stability, allowing the ministry to respond in a timely manner to the opportunities God provides. With an increase in monthly sustainer funds, we are able to continue serving the most vulnerable families. Please consider becoming an Impact Ministries monthly sustainer through recurring monthly giving.

In addition to praying about how you can contribute with a monetary gift, I ask that you also pray about how you can help bring new members to our family of donors. Younger families or new Christians may not be aware of the work God drew you to participate with in Guatemala. Please, tell them about the exciting things God is doing through your partnership with Impact Ministries and encourage them to become a part of this ministry.

Also, your employer may have a Matching Gift Program that could prove an invaluable resource to the work of Impact Ministries. Please pray and think creatively about how we can work together to continue to show Christ's love and care to the children and their communities in the highlands of Guatemala.

At this time, I ask that you join both prayerfully and financially in responding to the current need for increased consistent monthly support. A monthly gift allows you to spread the financial impact of your giving across the entire year, filling in gaps in funding, and creates stability allowing the ministry to respond in a timely manner to the opportunities God provides.

**To become a monthly sustainer**, fill out the enclosed reply card in the enclosed envelope **or go to** [www.impactminusa.org](http://www.impactminusa.org), click 'Give Now', select purpose: Where Most Needed - Guatemala, and choose frequency: Monthly for an automatic recurring gift.

## SISTER AURA: The Deeper Need



Many times, we see people in poverty and think that the solution for them is to change their standard of living. In reality, there is a much deeper need. When the church addresses the need for salvation and teaches biblical truths, people are set free. When people encounter Christ, everything changes.

Aura is an example of Christ working through the church in Mocoacán to meet this deeper need.

*When my husband permitted me go to the church, I accepted the Lord and now I am happy. Now I just pray that my husband would accept the Lord. I have seen God bring changes to our family. Often we would fight, but now things are changing. My husband has not stopped drinking yet, but family problems have definitely been decreasing. God is blessing us.*

*God has also blessed me with my animals. Before I accepted the Lord I did not have any. My animals would die, but now I have animals in abundance; they are growing and multiplying. I have chickens and ducks and I know that God is giving them to me. I thank Him because He is making changes in my family and in my life. When a person does not know God, they have a problem; they*

*have no one to turn to. But when they have God, even if they are sad they can go to Him. They can speak to Him.*

*My husband is glad that I have accepted the Lord. He has said, 'I know there is a God, and I know that He is real.' He recognizes that there is a God, but he has not yet been able to go to church, listen to God's Word and accept Him.*

Aura is thankful to God for His mercy on her life and His abundant blessings. She is also trusting God to redeem her husband.



## ERICKA - an Excerpt from the Testimony of Ericka Cabnal de Beb

This is an excerpt from the testimony of Ericka Cabnal de Beb. Ericka is the leader of the administrative team that oversees the ten Vida Schools of Impact Ministries. Ericka is married to Hector Beb, and is the mother of two boys ages four and two years old.

Ericka did not grow up through the programs of Impact Ministries, but the Lord has sown passion in her heart for the teachers, children, and people who become involved with Impact Ministries.

*When I came to Impact Ministries I sensed the finger of the Lord working in my life. And, if you ask me how has the Lord changed my life in Impact Ministries, it is in EVERYTHING; a complete change! He changed the priorities in my life. He changed the expectations that I had; the manner in which I used to think, from a worldly mindset to the heavenly. He taught me to follow what is the BEST; which is the Lord; to set aside that which the world would offer me; to trust in the Lord, because He will add all the rest.*

*There are 102 teachers who work under me; including directors and secretaries. My greatest desire for them is that they would surrender their lives completely to the Lord, and that they would yield every area of their life in service to Him.*

*Furthermore, I have seen the hand of the Lord working in the lives of the teachers. I have seen changes; I have seen dreams come true in the Lord. I have also seen them pour out their hearts in surrender to God.*

*Students want to be like their teachers and what is so marvelous is that, if their teachers love the Lord, the children will also love Him. And, if the children love the Lord, then they have EVERYTHING. It does not matter if they do not have fame or success according to this world, if they love the Lord they have it all.*

When asked about her personal dream, Ericka says:



*My personal dream is to see myself serving the Lord, and that my children would see the Lord through me and want to serve the Lord also. I will need stability in loving the Lord, stability to following the Lord and to share clearly with the people who work under my leadership.*

When discussing the future for Impact Ministries and supporters from North America, Ericka says:

*Impact Ministries will have the opportunity to go and to sow the Word of God to many places, places where people have not yet surrendered their lives to the Lord. We are going to marvel, though I do not know what it will be, I get excited in thinking about what the Lord is going to do.*

*I thank the sponsors who, without knowing us, sow into our lives, my life and the 1500 children who are behind me. There are many places in which to sow economically and with material things. But, Impact Ministries is in the Lord's heart. I know that when sowing in us, it is good soil and we will grow because of it. Thank you very much and may the Lord open the windows of the heavens, and may you see provision and all God's blessings multiplied in your lives.*