



JUNGLE BREEZES YOUTH MINISTRIES

WE ARE WAITING

Guatemalan society is accustomed to violence. With one of the highest violent crime rates in Central America, the possibility of being a victim is not unlikely. This fact can be attributed to multiple reasons. The thirty year civil war was a major factor, and had a devastating effect on the social fabric of communities. The prolonged conflict destroyed the social structure and accustomed generations to violence. The end of the war in the mid-nineties brought to a close much of the violence in Guatemala.

A shift began to take place soon after. A corrupt government and weak law enforcement left a vacuum that was soon filled by organized crime. Many former military and government officials run illicit operations, smuggling drugs between South America and the United States. Gangs have sprung up in the larger cities, and with the weapons left over from the war, have created criminal empires. Couple all of this with high unemployment, and the fact that over half the population is under nineteen years old, and you will start to see the options that the youth in Guatemala truly have.

This brings us to Diego. Diego is a sixteen year old boy who grew up in one of the worst zones of Guatemala City. Gangs have always been a part of his life. When his older brother was a senior in high school, he was gunned down five blocks from their house. That was seven years ago. As Diego became older, his friends in school began to join the gangs.

Ironically, gang life offers a form of protection in the community you

live in. It is a brotherhood, where you have a sense of belonging. It offers a form of employment, a purpose, and an elevated social status. It is extremely dangerous, with almost no way out.

Diego's friends began to exert pressure on him to join them. When he declined, they began to harass him at school. Diego changed schools, but they knew where he lived, and always found him. The circumstances became progressively worse.

**"O Lord, you hear the desire of
the afflicted; you will
strengthen their heart; you will
incline your ear to do justice to
the fatherless and the
oppressed, so that man who is of
the earth may strike terror no
more."**

Psalm 10:17-18

The problems confronting Diego came sharply into focus several months ago. On his way home from school he was robbed, in an act of intimidation. They held two guns to his head and took his cellphone and necklace.

After they left, Diego spotted a friend driving a taxi. Together they set off in pursuit. About the time the adrenaline wore off, and they realized the futility and danger of their decision, they saw a police truck. They quickly told them what had happened, and the police took up the pursuit.

Gangs operate within their own set of rules and morals, however misguided. Involving the police in their affairs is perhaps one of the worst things to do. Diego is now a wanted man by the gang. They are actively looking for him, to carry out retribution for involving the police.

Diego's mother took him out of school, and he did not go far from the house. This obviously, was not a practical, long term solution, but the facts facing them left few options. If Diego changed schools, it was only

a matter of time until they found him again. His mother, having already lost one son to the gangs, was desperate for a solution, desperate to protect her youngest child.

Now the story becomes extraordinary. A turn of fortune, that has the hand of God all over it. Sometimes we attribute such happenings to chance, or perhaps our clever deductions. If so, we are missing out on a stirring site of God at work.

Diego's Aunt lives in El Chal. She highly recommended our school, Tree of Life, to Diego's mom. Suddenly, there was a way forward. Diego's mom moved fast, and set up a meeting with the school administration. During the interview, it became clear that Diego had no options left. He was not going back to Guatemala City.

God does that. He brings these stories to us in many forms. When you examine the details, you can see the touch of his hand, guiding that particular person, through their circumstances; directly to us.

What kind of boy was he? Growing up in Guatemala City in a culture of violence; what would he be like? Would his street smarts have a negative impact on the other children? Was it worth the risk?

When I think about Diego, I can't help but remember the One who took a chance on us; the Man who offered a hand, a life, everything; to give us a way out. Have I been worthy of that risk? Have you?

Diego was accepted at the Tree of Life School on a one month trial basis. That was three months ago, and Diego is still coming to school. He has demonstrated a good attitude and a friendly demeanor.

Diego is fully engaged in life. He enjoys art, riding dirt bike, and listening to music. He is a very normal sixteen year old. One who misses his mom.

Diego's future is wide open. He is attending our church and youth activities. He is making friends at school and in the church. However, he is not a Christian, and has a smoking habit he is trying to shake.

Diego is attending school, but I doubt that is the real reason God brought him to El Chal. God has given us this opportunity to influence Diego's life at a very impressionable time. He is being shown Godly examples in his teachers and friends. The path to life is wide open in front of him.

Will he recognize what is being offered? Will he accept it?

This is our mission in El Chal. We present people with a choice. We shower them with God's love; and then we wait. We wait for them to accept our love. We wait for them to accept God's love. We wait for that spark of interest that shows the Holy Spirit is being allowed to work. Pray for us in El Chal.

We're waiting on Diego.

Inspiring our Youth

Several factors shape a successful youth meeting; a challenging message; a diverse group; an enjoyable experience; and inspiring goals.

All of these factors were present at the 'Central American Youth Meetings' held at Jungle Breezes on the weekend of June 10-12.

These challenging messages were presented by Mervin Dueck of Chihuahua, Mexico. His focus centered on knowing God, and understanding God's will for our lives. These two aspects are crucial in the life of a Christian.

The young people that attended the meeting came from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures. The group of 30 that came from El Chal included some youth from the community as well as church youth and staff. A group of 11 came from a church in El Salvador. With the staff from El Chal and Jungle Breezes we had a group of 55 people. Six countries were represented by those present.

Multiple cultures present challenges in communication. However, a willingness to blend and learn about each other transcends many difficulties. The youth learned to work together in challenging group relays and depend on each other in activities that required trust. Games of volleyball and soccer were enjoyed by everyone.

The goals God has for His people have never changed over the years. He still wants a peaceful, loving people who accept His will and strive to be righteous. The sermons on Sunday clearly explained the common goals we all have as children of God, regardless of culture.





Discovering JOY

I stand primly calling the next patient by name, making sure to pronounce the complete name without an accent. The plan is to patiently listen to complaints, accurately diagnose, send the appropriate medications, pray with them if deemed helpful to the situation, not break their bank account, and send them away with joy in their hearts...as much joy as a sick person might feel, that is. Another life saved. Another mark on the success list. Another star in the crown.

That is the plan. But the world is far from perfect and so am I. The name is sadly butchered. I say the wrong greeting. A diabetic interrupts, wanting her blood sugar level measured so she can eat. Another wants to be seen before his turn. I swing my arms directing traffic while obviously edging toward the consult room. The complaints are vague, the diagnosis uncertain, and we rightly call it "practicing medicine". Soaring high above my scope of practice, working as a medical physician rather than a registered nurse, has always been a challenge. Although my medical knowledge and judgement have certainly improved after two years, plenty of opportunity remains for miracles and Holy Spirit guidance.

Healthcare in Guatemala, while improving in accessibility, still lacks in quality and compassion. Throughout the years the goals for the clinic have been to provide affordable basic healthcare and to show Christ's love to all who come for assistance. The clinic is staffed with Guatemalans and North Americans, all of whom are Christians and willing to talk about spiritual matters with patients. Medications are donated or bought within country and sold with little mark-up. Our typical patient population comes with diabetes mellitus, high blood pressure, asthma, bronchitis, gastritis, parasites, or injuries. With

"It is hopeless to try to weigh up the good, the bad, the futile, and the merely harmless, and hope that there will be enough of the good—in medical work, enough unequivocal cures—to justify all the rest.... Jesus told us to do what is true. I think the truth needs no justification, no defense."

- Elisabeth Elliot

the exception of assisting deliveries, we care for the very young to the very old. Within the team of staff we also have diverse specialties and routinely call on the expertise of the individual nurse. We have a list of contacts and regularly refer to specialists for cases beyond our proficiency.

Unlike my predictable medical career in North America, working in Guatemala requires flexibility, patience, and endurance. Some staff enjoy the tried and true and normalcy of the days while others thrive on the unexpected, novel, and dramatic. Some are inspired by a diabetic who is compliant, a story of healing, a calm afternoon to organize supplies. Others, are motivated by googling "paint-thinner ingestion" while jogging to the clinic, successful object removal from the nose of a screaming and squirming child, a 2+ hour stitching job, a house-call, the gifts of eggs or fruit, the kisses from children, the deep conversations with patients behind closed doors and recognition from patients while visiting any nearby town. And frankly, days off with no illness, questions, blood, or betadine are most welcome.

Living in another culture, speaking another language, working and living with strangers from a variety of backgrounds—it's good for the sanctification process. Yes, it is certainly worthwhile and a benefit to the community; however, first and foremost, it changes me. I learned autonomy isn't so fun when it is my decision and their health day after day. I learned to be creative and to do what needed to be done whether or not the appropriate resources were available or the setting ideal. I learned that my job doesn't end when my shift does and there might be an emergency or a medical question. My knowledge base expanded quickly, and I learned of medical specialties previously ignored. Increased compassion for patients

suffering from the tropical illnesses when no winter freeze arrives to exempt me from my share. Dependence on God when there are no answers and no energy.

And whether or not there are any marks on the list of success, any stars in the crown, it's not about results. It's about being loved by God and that love spilling out onto those around me. It's about doing what is true and trusting God for the rest.

~Victoria Hershberger

Living at JBYM

Jonathan

Jonathan came to La Anchura desiring to grow in his Christian life. He is a third generation Christian. His grandfather was influential in the establishment of the MAM mission outpost in San Sur. Three weeks ago he had to leave the ranch very suddenly to take care of his mother who is very ill. He hopes to return to the ranch when the needs at home are taken care off.



Kayla

My name is Kayla Chupp and I am from Bonners Ferry, Idaho. My parents are Darrel and Dorothy Chupp. I came to La Anchura in the middle of April 2016 and I am planning on staying here for 2 years. I am currently teaching school to 7 students. Also I help some with domestic duties. I must honestly say I never expected to end up in Central America. Obviously God had different plans. I came to La Anchura down with my youth group to in January and felt God pulling at me. I loved it here in Guatemala and well, long story short, I flew out less than 3 months later. It is true if - we leave the choice up to God, His choice truly is better than our own.

NEW
Staff

Austin

My name is Austin Good, and I am from Logan, Ohio. My parents are Mark and Violet Good. I came to El Chal in the middle of March 2016. I am planning to stay for at least one year. I drive the school bus for the Tree of Life School and assist the house parents at the Mission house. I have discovered that when you follow God, you end up in the strangest places. I never expected to be in Guatemala, but I am thrilled that God has brought me here to El Chal. I enjoy my work here, and feel fulfilled following God's plan.

PURPOSE

To let our light shine before others in such a way that they will see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven.

VISION

To create a setting where youth from dysfunctional homes can learn practical life skills and, most importantly, come to trust in Christ as their personal Lord and Savior through the powerful influence of Christian families.

MISSION

To build Christ's Kingdom by discipling the hearts, minds and hands of youth and equip them for future service in their own communities.

requesting PRAYER

Let your requests be made known unto God.

- That souls would be won into His Kingdom
- God's blessings and safety for the workers on the field
- For Chad Miller's as they relocate in La Anchura
- For wisdom as many decisions continue to be made

FROM THE ... Board

I wish to begin with giving God the glory for the way he continues to lead and direct in the work of Jungle Breezes Youth Ministries. There are many people involved, and many things happening. We marvel at God's constant hand of protection that touches all of us. When children are picking mangos from a tree and touch a power line with their aluminum picker; when someone steps over a snake simply thinking it's a left behind shoe-lace; we point to the One who controls everything. When someone falls through a deteriorating section of roof while installing new metal, or when the brakes fail on a vehicle and it goes over an embankment without seriously injuring anyone; we know He was there. Many instances that we take for granted, and forget soon after.

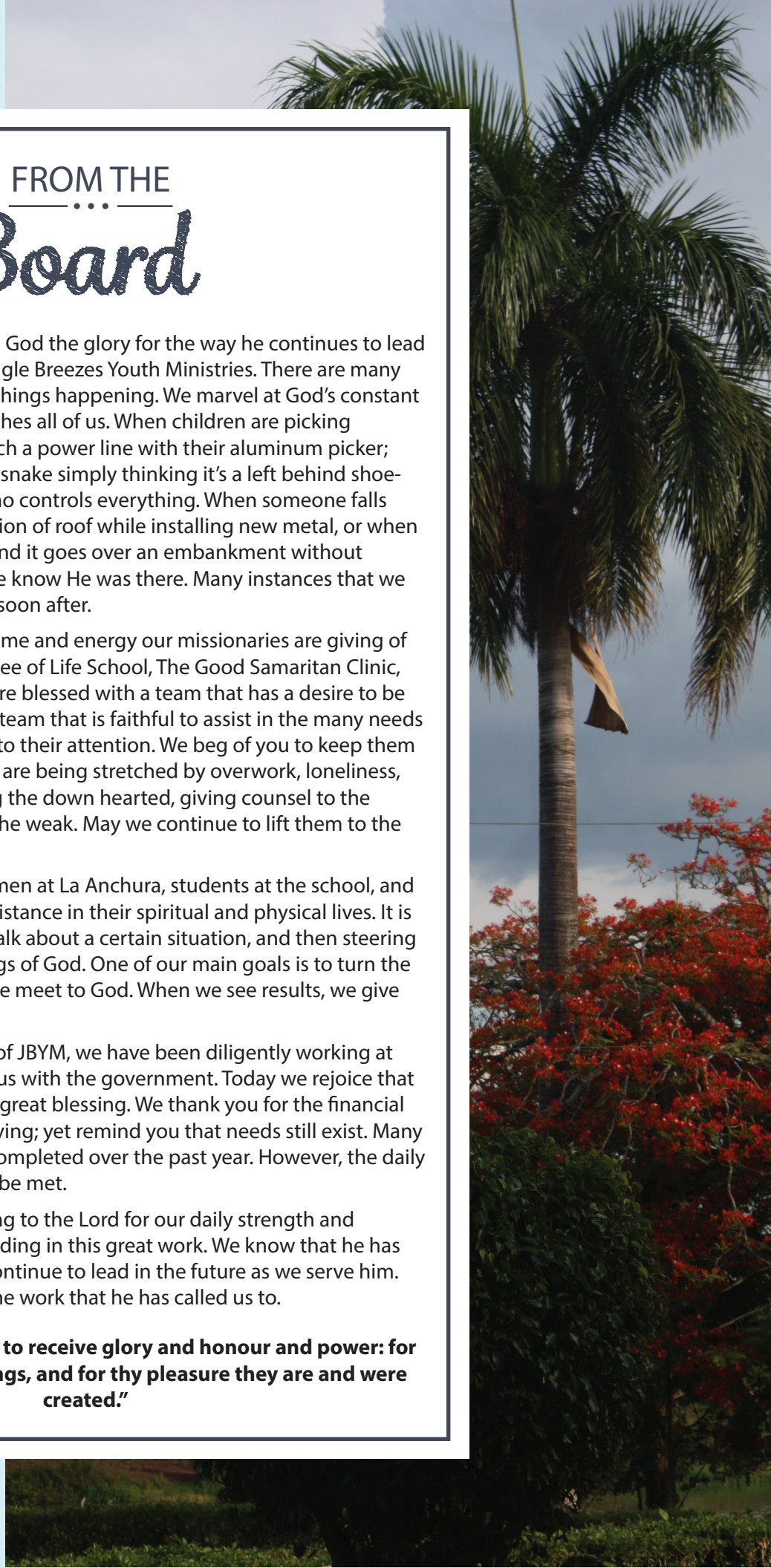
We are grateful for all the time and energy our missionaries are giving of themselves at La Anchura, Tree of Life School, The Good Samaritan Clinic, and the Mission house. We are blessed with a team that has a desire to be faithful in the little things. A team that is faithful to assist in the many needs that are constantly brought to their attention. We beg of you to keep them in your prayers. Missionaries are being stretched by overwork, loneliness, decision making, comforting the down hearted, giving counsel to the troubled, and encouraging the weak. May we continue to lift them to the throne of grace.

It is exciting to see young men at La Anchura, students at the school, and patients at the clinic find assistance in their spiritual and physical lives. It is so rewarding to hear them talk about a certain situation, and then steering the conversation to the things of God. One of our main goals is to turn the hearts and minds of those we meet to God. When we see results, we give God all the glory.

Since starting the mission of JBYM, we have been diligently working at receiving our charitable status with the government. Today we rejoice that we have received it. This is a great blessing. We thank you for the financial support we have been receiving; yet remind you that needs still exist. Many capital projects have been completed over the past year. However, the daily operating costs still need to be met.

Our desire is to keep looking to the Lord for our daily strength and wisdom, as we follow His leading in this great work. We know that he has led us in the past, and will continue to lead in the future as we serve him. May we each be faithful in the work that he has called us to.

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."



How can we help?

- Thank you in assisting us with the many capital projects completed this spring.
- The Good Samaritan Clinic is in need of nurses. Contact us if you feel called to assist with the medical needs in Guatemala
- By giving financially! Presently we are in need of fund to assist us with:
 - Purchasing cattle -- \$7,000.00
 - Monthly operating costs



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If you would like to have a
Jungle Breeze's Youth Ministry
presentation done at your
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