



NEWSLETTER

June 2024

The Ranch:

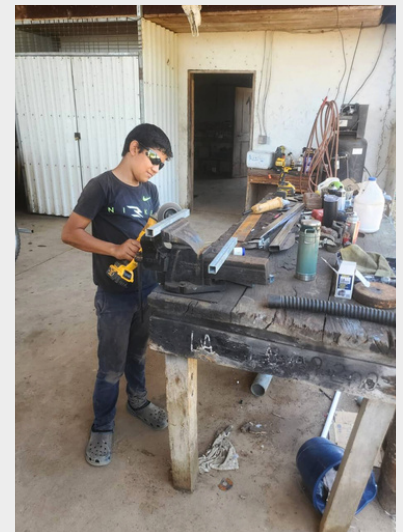
Dust and smoke and more dust and smoke. Dry season is hanging over us like a thick, oppressive blanket. With the dryness and heat, fires spread quickly. A small fire meant only to consume a bit of trash, can quickly spread to include hundreds of acres of fields and jungle. We are grateful that although some fires came right to La Anchura, we were able to stop them before they caused any extensive damage on the ranch. We are thankful for a couple light rains that signaled the not too distant rainy season. One such rainfall came as an answer to prayer, when it felt like the wildfires were too far out of control to do anything. Much to our surprise as if out of nowhere we had a beautiful thunderstorm!



I tell myself to be thankful for dry season, as all to soon we will be putting our rubber boots and off-road tires to work.

As rainy season approaches, we are well aware that the Guatemalan school year is half over...where has time gone? The boys are going home for mid year breaks and staff are taking much needed holidays.

We have been able to get a number of projects under way. This includes a good start on our pasture expansion project. A number of groups and a few local hired men have made good progress on this project. Another major accomplishment is an upgrade to our vehicle fleet to include a 4x4 pickup. We are grateful to each one who made this possible through donated time or resources. God Bless! WRITTEN BY: Peter Heibert



GOOD SAMARITAN CLINIC



FREDY'S STORY

Fredy is a youth that has overcome insurmountable odds and fought for life and breath in a way that most of us can never imagine. His is a story of perseverance and God's provision, and though it may not have the ending that we wish for, the Lord is not through writing it.

This is the story as we know it.

At age 8, Fredy started vomiting blood. After several days with no improvement, his parents took him to the government health center where they put him on oxygen and IV fluids and from there, drove him an hour away to the hospital by ambulance.



Pictured is one of our nurses with Fredy

After being there a few days, his situation stabilized, and he was finally diagnosed with malnutrition (presumably the bleeding was chalked up to be a gastric ulcer due to malnourishment). He then was referred to a nutrition clinic about half an hour from home in the opposite direction. After being under their treatment for a while, Fredy seemed to improve and was sent home.

After some time, there was a relapse, and he was again taken to the hospital with the same problem. This time the doctors realized there was more going on and wanted to send him to the main referral hospital in Guatemala City to do more testing and get treatment. Fredy's family is Q'eqchi' (Mayan Indian), his parents can barely communicate in Spanish, so they didn't understand what the doctor was trying to tell them. What they did know is that the city is very far from home, and there was no way they could afford the trip, much less stay there, plus there were many children needing their attention at home. So, it wasn't even a question as to what they would do.

Several years went by and Fredy's condition deteriorated.

His family had no more hope for him since they had already tried the medical system and that hadn't helped. His dad continued trying to provide as best he could for his growing family by finding odd jobs around town. His quest for work brought him to our pastor's door, which in turn brought Fredy's condition to the attention of the pastor's wife who was a nurse. She raised enough funds to take him to a private hospital and was able to be an advocate for them, making sure they understood what was going on.

He was finally diagnosed with congenital liver fibrosis in 2017, and his symptoms were being treated. He was able to live a more normal comfortable life, even attending school for a while. But there was that constant shadow looming over him. Besides the multiple daily pills, he needed blood transfusions periodically and at least twice a year had to make the exhausting bus trip to Guatemala City for endoscopies and treatment for his Esophageal varices which were the cause of blood loss.

Fast forwarding to the present, he is not doing well at all. The medical system can't do more than treat his symptoms. As of the beginning of June, 18-year-old Fredy has spent several weeks in the hospital with a short stint back in El chal. He has been using a high level of O2, with the focus being to keep him as comfortable as possible as it seems his organs are slowing shutting down. Pray for continued peace in Fredy's heart. Pray for his family and our staff as they walk this journey with him. WRITTEN BY: Kendra Dick

TREE OF LIFE SCHOOL

We are at the halfway mark and we want to thank God for His guidance and protection.

In the previous newsletter, I mentioned the plans we had made for the field trips. Thanks be to God, as well as the help and trust of the parents, we have successfully completed them! These field trips are unique times. Not only do we leave the normal routine and join the students exploring destinations that are new to them, but we also share their emotions and feelings in a different way. We are able to get to know them on a more personal level and show them that beyond just being their teachers, we are also their friends.



One of our new students heard that we are going to have joint devotions and asked, "What are devotions altogether?" Well, his doubt has been settled, since we've had numerous of these times together. They are some of the most special moments at Tree of Life school. It's a time to sing together, hear a Bible story or lesson, give a special presentation as a grade, and pray. Every two weeks we have the privilege of meeting altogether, and outside of this, each grade has their own devotional time in their own classroom.



Presently we are preparing for a Family Day at Tree of Life on June 21st. The families come and we have different activities for them; prizes, a devotional, a program by the students, and finally supper. It is a big event and involves a lot of preparation, but we believe it's a special time to strengthen family ties. We have also started the high school workshops. These are highly enjoyed times with the students, teaching them new, useful skills. This year we have the following workshops: baking, painting, carpentry, and cooking. And so we have made it to the halfway point, and we can say with complete surety that God has been good, He has been faithful in every step that has been taken to bring us halfway and we trust that He will help us in the remainder of the year. We invite your prayers for this ministry.

WRITTEN BY: Ceasar Vasquez

DONATE:

Make a difference in the lives of many people! Your gift of money will help us with our operating costs, and in turn we can better meet the many needs about us. All donations are tax deductible opportunities.

VOLUNTEER:

There are always maintenance projects as well as new construction projects. Please contact us if you are interested in organizing a work group.

PRAY:

Pray that we can show the Love of God to the physically and spiritually hurting people about us through the clinic, school, and ranch.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP?

VOLUNTEER Opportunities

➔ GUEST COORDINATORS IN EL CHAL -**CURRENTLY**

We are in urgent need of loving, hospitable, guest coordinators in El Chal. We currently do not have anyone filling this role.

Come create a nurturing and welcoming environment where you can connect with each of the visitors who come to JBYM by serving meals, providing a place to sleep, and taking care of each of the guests. You will have many opportunities to serve others and be a huge asset to the team of JBYM.



Offsite Director
Stuart Reist



The Board:

Get in touch with one of our board members or contact jbymfieldoffice@gmail.com if interested in any of these positions.



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