



THE RANCH

Soft rain sounds on the widow. It's a perfect afternoon to catch up on reports, schedules, and plans for the next week. With the church schedule complete, I focus on the plan for the upcoming week. Glancing at the list of priorities, I scan down the list. Water lines to fix, electrical problems to address, and tires that won't hold air. Along with these, there are the normal chores of milking cows, and then selling the milk in town, and feeding the calves, chickens, and pigs. Which ones will take priority this week?

The endless to-do lists, and the busyness of the day-to-day chores can become a meaningless cycle. This is where I need to take a step back, and ask myself the question, What is the purpose of what I spend my time on? I can look at my achievements but in the scope of eternity, what bearing will my work have on the Kingdom of God? Does the mundane work I do each day have any impact on the spiritual lives of those around me?



Every morning when I get up, two sleepy teens follow me out the door, and to the barn. They observe every move I make, and every word I speak. They notice the patterns in my life, whether good or questionable. They see my weaknesses, and my strengths. They notice when I'm stressed, and how I deal with it. They scrutinize my response to criticism, or even accusations. While I'm doing chores, business in town, or a Wednesday evening service; the young boys that come through the gate at La Anchura get a front row seat to my life, and to the other staff that serve here. They read us like a book and are left to determine who the author is. We have a choice to make. Will the motive of my efforts be earthly achievements and recognition? Or do I realize that something as simple as daily chores can point someone to Christ?

Each in a unique way, we all have someone observing what we do. For us here at La Anchura it's the boys, the community, and our own families. For you it might be your co-workers, or the people you rub shoulders with daily. When our focus is to do everything for the glory of God, it affects our lifestyles. We are no longer driven by selfish desires but rather look for ways to use everyday events to share Jesus with those around us and use every action to mirror Christ.



When life gets mundane and I start to feel like I'm just a gear in a big machine, I remind myself that as a disciple of Christ, I may be the only Bible that someone reads today, and therefore I will conduct my life in such a way that those around me see Christ! WRITTEN BY: PETER HEIBERT

TREE OF LIFE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Nearly all the students come bouncing in the gate. They're excited. They head straight to their classrooms, knowing the routine that is

to follow. They thrive on their teacher's consistency. And I reflected on the atmosphere that we're creating for these souls. Here, they feel appreciated. They feel noticed. They experience success. They learn so many book lessons. They learn little things, too. Which hand to give when shaking hands, why we close our eyes when we pray, how to deal with people who rub us the wrong way, the importance of honesty, the need for forgiveness, neatness in the little things, responsibility... actually these aren't such little things. These are life skills. And this is the vision of a Christian school.

They are also learning to "weep with those that weep" as they attend a viewing of their classmate's mom who lost her battle to cancer. They learn to "bear each other's burdens" as they pitch in to make a fundraiser possible to help another friend's mom in her journey through sickness. They learn "to live peaceably with all men" as they head out for a day or so with their classmates on the field trips. And as I think about all these lessons, I'm reminded again about the immensity of a teacher's role. It goes far, far beyond the university certificate that gives them the license to teach. It touches their hearts. Points out the need to be channels of the love of Jesus. Please pray for the teachers at 'Tree of Life'.

Our first session of workshops is past with high school, and was so rewarding. This year we are happy to be able to offer a wider variety of workshops, thanks to the different instructors who have accepted this responsibility. All in a Friday's afternoon, cilantro was seeded by the agronomists, the first seams were nervously sewn, landscapes evolved on paper, delicious pizzas were baked, wood was measured and cut by the carpenters, electricians wired light bulbs and switches, cupcakes were baked and decorated, a wound was dressed and bacteria was examined by the aspiring nurses. The students enjoy this switch from the normal routine and the life skills they are being taught are invaluable.



The school year is over half done, which is hard to believe. Through God's strength, we desire to continue strong and reach our goals for these next two quarters. We ask for your continued prayers. "Except the Lord build the [school] they labor in vain that build it."

WRITTEN BY: KATRINA BERGANZA



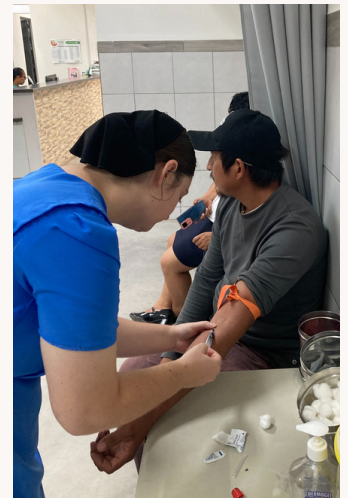
GOOD SAMARITAN CLINIC

"Some believe that it is only great power that can hold evil in check, but that is not what I have found. I have found that it is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love."

J.R.R. TOLKIEN

I spent the last several years inside the Good Samaritan Clinic, observing and participating in medical care. The clinic offers family medicine for all, from babies to the elderly. We treat a wide range of infections and parasites and are equipped to do minor surgeries. We stitch work injuries from machetes and clean diabetic ulcers. We attend many patients with diabetes and hypertension and elevated cholesterol levels. We see patients from Belize, from villages hours away, and from places that have no doctor closer than a five-hour drive. Unfortunately, there are some cases where we can't resolve their medical needs. Many cases have to be sent on to specialists for more extensive treatment.

I was curious why they would drive past other clinics and even the government hospitals to reach us. I kept asking patients why they picked this clinic. I gradually realized that although patients arrive for medical help, what they absorb from the encounter is how they were treated. What many people told me reflected Mr. Tolkien: "I feel respected here. You treat me kindly." Even the patients that we needed to send on would thank us for the little we did. Sometimes all I could offer was a listening ear while they poured out their heart burdens. To sit with empathetic attention while the patient quietly recounted years of abject poverty or tales of haunting fear felt starkly inadequate. Yet those were the ones who at the end of their stories would say, "Thanks for listening. It helps."



Jesus told us that offering even cold water in His name is a worthy ministry. In the spirit of Jesus' words, I pray that the patients would continue to receive cold water for their thirsty souls. My desire for the clinic is that quality medical care would always be offered with small acts of kindness and love.

WRITTEN BY: SHARON STOLTZFOOS



THANK-YOU!

Thank-you to Abe & Margaretha Loewen along with their 2 daughters who served for several months in Guatemala. Their time was split between the Boys Ranch and the Mission House in El Chal. They were a huge blessing in both locations!



NEW STAFF

We are excited to welcome Brianna Miller from Idaho who will be working at the Clinic Pharmacy.



THANK-YOU!

We are thankful for all the hard work Sharon Stoltzfoos invested during the years she served as a nurse at the clinic. We want to thank her for all the time and energy she put into the community!



NEW STAFF

We are glad to have Aneesh Mack from Alberta back at the Ranch as a Boys Tio.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP?

July 2025

VOLUNTEER Opportunities



GUEST COORDINATORS IN EL CHAL -CURRENTLY

We are in urgent need of loving, hospitable, guest coordinators in El Chal who will take care of each of the visitors who come to JBYM by providing transportation, serving meals, and providing a place for them to sleep. You will have many opportunities to serve others and be a huge asset to the team of JBYM.



Stuart Reist
Offsite Director

We are currently raising funds for the second story of our building project, which will include dedicated boys and girls dorms, separate accommodations for couples, as well as a laundry room and showers.

Would you consider contributing financially to help us reach our goal of \$75,000 USD?



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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