



JUNGLE BREEZES YOUTH MINISTRY



THE RANCH:

A special place where boys without family support find direction and learn life values through positive role models while working on a full-time farm.



THE SCHOOL:

A Christian-focused environment that provides safety, discipline, and nurtures students through the love of Jesus, as an alternative to the public school system.



THE CLINIC:

A place that provides affordable, compassionate care, supporting patients' physical and spiritual needs through guidance, attentive care, and prayer.

THE AVIATION PROGRAM:

PROVIDING EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION

The Aviation Program significantly cuts travel time, making trips between the mission base in El Chal and the JBYM Boys Ranch at La Anchura—normally 3–4 hours by road—just 20 minutes by plane. While medical flights allow patients to travel quickly and safely from an ambulance in Flores to one in Guatemala City in under 1.5 hours instead of an 8-hour bus trip.

Everett Good is our pilot, and he and his wife are soon celebrating their first year of marriage. While his primary focus is flying, he also spends his free time serving as the mission's mechanic.

We appreciate each of our staff for their hard work and loving care in keeping all of our mission locations running smoothly.



THE RANCH

A bolt slides and the gate groans as I swing it open and lead my four-legged helper up to the barn. The warming rays of the early rising sunshine bathe the old corral and warmly caress my face under the sombrero pulled low over my eyes. It's a new day dawning and working cattle is on the agenda for the morning. Spurs jingle and horses stomp as we mount up and ride out to bring in the herd. My blue heeler, Dusty, trots at the



heels of my horse. He doesn't know where we are going or what we are doing. He can't see in front or around him because the grass is taller than he is. But that doesn't matter; he blindly follows, happy just to be with me and try to help with anything he can. As I reflect on that, I wonder how many times we stop and try to see the future and we hesitate to move forward because we don't see clearly where God is leading us. Up on the horse, I see much more clearly than my dog. I can see the dangers such as snakes and thorns and I can take a route to avoid them and protect him from danger. How much greater is our Master who leads us by the hand. He sees the path of our lives and He will protect us and lead us where He chooses, if only we put our complete faith and confidence in Him.

We rouse the resting cattle and they stretch and start out in a bunch for the corral. The trek to the corral is familiar, so they move along without much nudging. We get them bunched in the corral and the gate securely latched and then we loosen the cinches on the horses and head into the house to answer the hunger call of our own stomachs. Once filled and topped off with some strong black coffee, we return to the work at hand. We tighten the cinches, swing up, and begin sorting the calves and the cows. We do that so the calves don't get trampled in the chute. The boys and some hired hands swing the gates. I tossed a loop over the head of a decent-sized heifer, took my dallies, and the horse leaned into the weight as we started forward towards the open gate. POP! The saddle lifted and the horse flipped over. I landed hard and felt the weight of the horse coming down as I struggled to move to the side. There wasn't time. The horse came down beside me, partially across my legs. The saddle horn dug into the dirt close to my face. Thank God it didn't do any damage. I got up and tried to figure out what caused me to land in the dirt. Upon inspection, I saw the front cinch of the saddle had worn through and under the strain it finally reached the breaking point. I changed the broken leather and we finished the job.

But it got me thinking. How is my connection to God? Is it wearing thin? The weak cinch was something I should have noticed when I saddled up but because it had slowly got thinner over time, I hadn't noticed the weakness. Are we daily strengthening our connection with God? Or is it getting thinner every day until one day it will break under pressure. The boys asked me many questions later, Were you scared? What if you had died? In times like that, the brevity of life seems closer. It was a good opportunity to explain to them that death is not something we



as Christians need to fear. In times like these they ask questions, but more often it's during daily life that they ask many questions and watch our every response to people and circumstances. They judge us in their minds and challenge us with their words to see if we are genuine and sincere in what we believe. Please continue to cover us and the mission here with prayer.

WRITTEN BY: IVAN STOVER

Good Samaritan Clinic

I stepped into a new world upon my arrival at the Good Samaritan Clinic. Never before had I been exposed to healthcare outside the United States. In fact, this was my reason for going to the clinic. I am a nursing student with an interest in working internationally someday, and I wanted to test the waters. Through the many lessons learned during my month at the clinic, three themes emerge:

PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL HEALTHCARE NETWORK

Before visiting the clinic, I didn't realize the importance of a "mission" clinic networking with other local healthcare providers. During my time in El Chal, I was impressed by the relationship that Mr. Steve has built with the local EMS/Fire stations. It blessed me to observe Mr. Steve promoting their good rather than competing with them. The result has been a mutually beneficial relationship that promotes cooperation and service to the local community.

PURSUE EXCELLENCE

During many long afternoons while the nurses waited on the lab for their patients' lab results, I observed them reading research articles and other healthcare related resources. This immediately caught my attention as I had never seen a nurse pull out a medical journal during a lull. The pursuit of excellence – evidenced by the intentional acquisition of knowledge – has increased the quality of their care. I was also reminded how much training is needed to practice competently – it only begins with a degree.



PRIORITIZE YOUR PATIENTS

I observed many patient consults with each of the nurses and noticed a common factor – each nurse allowed her patients to take their time describing their ailments. They listened to their patients, addressed their needs, and answered their questions. They gave their patients the gift of time. Feeling vulnerable takes on a new meaning after being in a place where one finds it difficult to express the most basic needs because of a language barrier. During my clinical rotations in Brooklyn, NY, I interacted with numerous patients who spoke only Spanish. Due to my limited Spanish, my time in El Chal gave me a fresh understanding of how vulnerable my Spanish-speaking patients may feel. Going forward, I aim to be intentional in taking the time needed to communicate with my patients and to care for their needs.



In conclusion, my time at the Good Samaritan Clinic gave me insights into healthcare from a perspective not taught in nursing school. As I continue my healthcare journey, I want to participate in local healthcare networks, pursue excellence, and prioritize my patients. I don't know where God will lead me; but my desire is to be used by Him to bring physical and spiritual healing to those that He places in my care.

WRITTEN BY: ISAAC NISLEY



When God Opens Doors that Don't Exist

A SEED PLANTED LONG AGO

Before I was born, a small Mennonite school stood in El Chal, Guatemala. My parents were the first North American missionaries to settle there in 1977, and I arrived a few months later. Like many mission schools of that era, it primarily served children whose families attended the Mennonite church. Occasionally, community children were welcomed—provided they followed the school's rules, dressed modestly, and attended Sunday School.

When my wife and I returned to El Chal in 2003 to lead the church, I was asked to oversee the school as well. It was then that God placed a burden on my heart—a vision for a Christian school open to all children in the community. I saw an opportunity to reach the people of El Chal and its surrounding areas with Truth, by meeting a deeply felt need: quality education.

A VISION TAKES ROOT

We drafted a simple one-page document outlining the school's vision, program, rules, and tuition schedule. Many doubted it would work. Why would families pay for education when public school was free? Even our mission school had been free until then. In Guatemala, accreditation—official proof that a student has completed a grade—is essential. For years, the public school down the road had registered our few students in their system, issuing grade certificates. The year we opened our doors to the broader community, enrollment jumped from 17 to 30 students. With two teachers and myself as director, we began a new chapter.

TREE OF LIFE SCHOOL

Celebrating 20 Years

Have you ever followed the Lord's prompting and watched Him open doors where none seemed to exist? Have you seen your humble, uncertain efforts blossom into something far greater than you imagined—something that blesses others and transforms lives right before your eyes? That's what happens when God moves and we obey—when we show up, take small steps of faith, and trust Him to do the rest. That is the story of Colegio Cristiano Árbol de Vida—Tree of Life Christian School.

GROWTH FUELED BY FAITH

That first year was a blessing. The children thrived in a structured environment. Their favorite moments were singing children's action songs and hearing Bible stories during devotions. Our school became known for its programs—children reciting Scripture, singing, and acting out Bible stories. We didn't realize God was working powerfully through our little school. Two boys from the far end of El Chal experienced such dramatic transformation—academically, behaviorally, spiritually—that people took notice. The following year, we were overwhelmed with registrations. We grew to 75 students. For the next decade, we were constantly building, expanding, and improving. School vacation was spent constructing classrooms and upgrading facilities. Schoolboys pitched in, and local families gave what they could. It was a community effort, fueled by faith.

CHALLENGES AND MIRACLES

With growth came resistance. Some public school teachers grew hostile. Our American mission board expressed concern. The Ministry of Education scrutinized us. Yet we had become known as the school where children learned to read—and where lives changed.

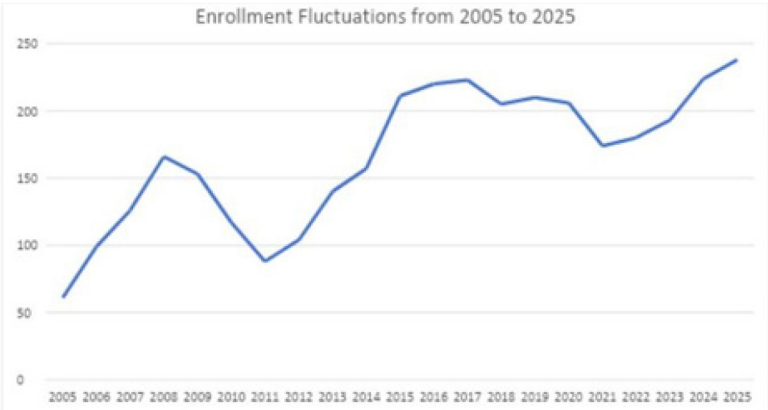


We began encouraging our Mennonite youth to pursue teaching credentials, despite past discouragement from the mission. Some had even been forbidden to study beyond Grade 6 or 9. We hired certified teachers from the community—some evangelical, some nominally Catholic. We also relied on non-certified Mennonite staff from Guatemala and North America to provide mentorship and spiritual guidance. It was a patchwork team, but God used it.

A MULTICULTURAL TEAM, A DIVINE MISSION

One day, a young man asked me if I believed in miracles. I told him, “Here, we don’t just see miracles—we sometimes schedule them.”

The growth, the changed lives, the provision and protection we experienced—these were all miracles. God alone deserves the glory. The mistakes, the doubts, the failures—those are ours. We saw God provide funds, necessary items for classrooms, and infrastructure in extraordinary ways. We witnessed transformation in students, teachers, and entire families. We saw God soften the hearts of officials who once opposed us. Through it all, the school became a beacon—calling people to truth, to right living, and to follow Him.



A CLOSING REFLECTION

When I reflect on what God has done in this little corner of the world, I bow my head in reverence and gratitude to Him “who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” — Ephesians 3:20

WRITTEN BY: STEPHAN GINGERICH



THE POWER OF OBEDIENCE AND UNITY

Yes, God does what only He can do. But I believe we have a part to play. We must obey. We must take risks—steps of faith. And we must love one another, despite our differences. Leading a team with two languages, diverse cultures, and varying skill levels was both challenging and beautiful. Our national staff brought sustainability, cultural insight, and trust. Our North American team contributed innovation, energy, resources, and spiritual maturity. TOGETHER; WE SAW GOD MOVE.

FACTS ABOUT THE EL CHAL SCHOOL:

- School year runs from January - October

CURRENT STAFF: LEVELS OF EDUCATION:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| • 15 Guatemalans | • Kindergarten |
| • 2 North Americans | • Primary |
| | • Middle School |

NEW STAFF:

We are excited to have new staff added to our team in El Chal and at the Ranch. Pray for them as they adjust to their new roles serving the Guatemalan community.



ERIC & CAROLINE BAUMAN
Projects Managers in El Chal



GERALD & MARYJANE BRUBAKER
Guest Coordinators in El Chal



ABRAM & TINA NIEKOLEY
House Parents at the Ranch

WAYS YOU CAN HELP?

DECEMBER 2025

VOLUNTEER Opportunities

→ **SCHOOL TEACHERS - JAN. 2026**

→ **CLINIC NURSES - JAN. 2026**



We're excited to share that the first phase of our building project is now complete. The lower level of our new facility has been successfully finished.



Stuart Reist
Offsite Director

We are currently raising funds for the second story of our building project which we have just started working on. This will include dedicated boys and girls dorms, separate accommodations for couples, as well as a laundry room and showers. This addition will allow us to better accommodate and serve larger work groups. Would you consider contributing financially to help us reach our goal of \$75,000 USD?



Our mechanic shop used to consist of a little shed off the mission house. We are enjoying the extra space now!

The Board:

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



Kevin Bauman
Chairman



Jerry Hoover
Vice Chairman



Steve Martin
Secretary



Jay Martin
Treasurer



Tony Horst
Board Member



Darren Frey
Board Member



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