

JUNGLE BREEZES YOUTH MINISTRIES



EL CHAL, GUATEMALA

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER



THE RANCH

2026 started with a full house at La Anchura. We are incredibly grateful to God for providing all the staff we need for the year. For the first time in a couple of years we have not just one, but two sets of houseparents, along with various new single staff. A number of boys are enrolled in the program, and we expect a few more in the next month. We have also had the privilege of having a number of young people here for a couple of months, visiting and experiencing life on a boys ranch. It has been a blessing to see their interest in the work we do, and trust that these experiences can be useful to them on the road to wherever God calls them.



Along with the many visitors, and friends that we had the opportunity of hosting this year, we also are thankful for the various work teams that raised funds, and came down to help out with work projects to get the year started. Some of the projects completed are a new floor and ceiling in the schoolhouse by a group of energetic high school graduates from PA, a new roof on the main mission house by some young men from Aneesh's Church in Alberta, and a new floor in our soon-to-be carpenter shop, completed by a willing youth group from Oregon. Among some of these larger projects we had a few face lifts on an old building with a new coat of paint, and some aesthetics in the flower gardens around the houses. Sprinkled throughout the last 3 months, we also had numerous kind individuals come to help out our house moms with cooking, cleaning, and various household chores while we had work teams here. To all the visitors, and work teams we saw here at La Anchura this winter, we want to say, "Thank-you for your contribution!"

WRITTEN BY: Peter Heibert





GOOD SAMARITAN CLINIC

We all ask the question “Why?” in life. Whether it be about a job we must complete, a decision we need to make, or a challenge in life. Many times as I fill out a prescription I ask myself “Why? Why is the nurse prescribing this?” There is always a purpose of course. The patient will undoubtedly ask me what each medication is for, and will expect me to know the answers. My first few days felt overwhelming in trying to wrap my head around all the medications and what each one was prescribed for. Sometimes it had uses, other times it was basic. Slowly as the days, weeks, and then months continued on, things made more sense. Looking back, at times even in our limited view of the grand scheme we are able to understand some of the whys, but some we will never understand.

How often does God listen to us ask “why”? How often do we complain about our simple, or maybe not so simple, struggles in life? But He never gives up on us. He’s always there patiently listening to us, asking us to trust in Him. Does He not know what is best for us? What a privilege we have to rest in the sovereignty of a God who knows why. He is the author of our story, and He has already written the final chapter.

WRITTEN BY: Brianna Miller

“Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name: thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee: and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour.” Isaiah 43: 1-3

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

This addition will allow us to better accommodate and serve larger work groups. It will include dedicated boy’s and girl’s dorms, separate accommodations for couples, as well as a laundry room and showers.



Thanks to Eric Bauman’s supervision and the efforts of many hard workers, the interior and exterior walls have gone up quickly on the second-floor dormitory project in El Chal. A special thanks as well to the work groups who have helped along the way—they’ve been a real boost! We are now nearing the end of the block work and getting ready to begin construction on the roof trusses.

TREE OF LIFE SCHOOL

THE WORK CONTINUES

Twenty years have passed since the Tree of Life Christian school was founded. The work mentioned in the previous newsletter (Dec. 2025) continues. The same place where this work began as a small mustard seed is now an established ministry that carries on the legacy, aware that the vision and mission of the institution must be maintained and strengthened. Former students, who through God's providence were once the central figures in the story, are now adults. Yet, the memories of their school years at the Tree of Life School still remain in their hearts and minds. Many of them have returned, this time as parents, eager to have their children experience the same education and nurturing influence they once received. We currently have two former students who have returned as teachers.

In addition to the need to train new teachers, we are also aware that we must continue educating the students who are in our classrooms. Many of these students see the school as their place of refuge, as the place where they feel safe and loved.

The difficulties, threats, and the work of the enemy are possibly presented in a different way than they were 20 years ago. Today we no longer struggle with a lack of legal authority to operate as a school; instead we fight to keep well-defined lines, to remain under the blessing and protection of God. There is no longer a need for higher enrollment numbers; what is needed is discernment to know who needs our help the most, since there is not enough available space for everyone who shows interest. Perhaps the expectations of some parents are another thing that has changed. School enrolment choices are no longer always based on the school's spiritual emphasis or structure, but based on the academic aspect. For some parents academic results are more important than formative results based in values stemming from the fear of God. As a school, we believe that both should go hand in hand, although we are confident that any teaching based in the fear of God that we manage to plant in the hearts of the students, in the end, is what matters most in life.

Currently, our school has 231 students, 16 teachers, 4 administrative staff members, 2 janitors in charge of cleaning, as well as several other helpers responsible for maintenance and projects. With this data, we surpass 250 people who interact in this place every day. This fact simply makes us more aware of our need to remain in Christ and to depend on His inexhaustible source of provision.

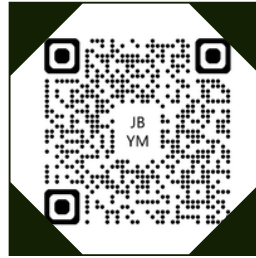
We live in a changing world, a society that keeps adjusting its ideals and priorities, an environment that keeps undergoing changes around us. Students also experience certain types of changes; changing grades, changing teachers, changing curriculum, and in many cases changing homes or guardians. However, we are grateful that we serve a God who does not change, whose faithfulness remains the same as when this work began. We need the same grace, the same faith, the same dedication to Him to continue this work. We appreciate every prayer offered to the Creator for this ministry; the work belongs to Him.

WRITTEN BY: Cesar Vasquez - School Administrator
Translated from Spanish



Donate:

Become a monthly partner or make a one time donation and make 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.



Organize a Work Group:

Contact us if you are interested in organizing a work group. Spots are still available for this year.

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.

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Kevin Bauman - Chairman (Ontario Canada)
- Kenrick Kratzer - Vice Chairman (Ohio, USA)
- Jay Martin - Secretary/Treasurer (Ontario, Canada)
- Todd Martin - Board Member (Pennsylvania, USA)
- Tony Horst - Board Member (Pennsylvania, USA)
- Darren Frey - Board Member (Ontario, Canada)
- Jerry Hoover- Board Member (Georgia, USA)
- Stuart Reist - Offsite Field Director (Ontario, Canada)

FIELD UPDATES:

Aneesh Mack left Guatemala at the beginning of March, after one year of service. Aneesh served as a Tio to the boys at the Ranch and helped out with the cattle chores and various other projects that needed to be done.

Eric & Caroline Bauman rejoice with the birth of their baby girl. Sofia Raquel was born on January 4, 2026 in Santa Elena, GT.

Steve & Kara Miller are grateful for the gift of another little miracle boy added to their family. Alex Esteben was born Aug. 28, 2024 and after a very quick and smooth adoption process they were able to bring him home Aug. 22, 2025 with the adoption finalized on November 20, 2025. The process went much quicker than they ever imagined possible and just recently they have received all the paperwork making his last name Miller!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP?

MEET OUR NEW MISSION STAFF



The beginning of March, a devastating fire at the Ranch destroyed our generator building and everything inside it. In a matter of hours, the Ranch was left without power and facing the unexpected cost of replacing equipment that is essential to keeping things running.

As we begin the process of rebuilding, our main priority right now is raising funds to purchase generators so we can restore power to the Ranch as soon as possible. Rebuilding the generator building will come next, but getting power back on is the most urgent need.

Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated!



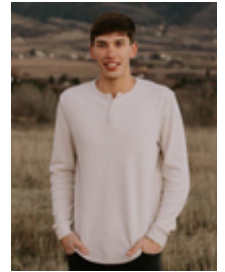
We are excited to have new staff added to our team in El Chal and at the Ranch. Pray for them as they adjust to their new roles serving the Guatemalan community.



ROBERTA HOOVER
English Teacher in El Chal



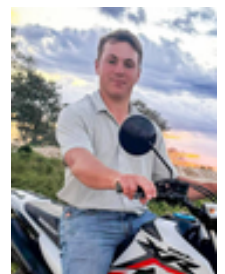
ALEX MILLER
Tio at the Ranch



NOEL MILLER
Tio & School Teacher at the Ranch



JOHN & TINA, JELENA, ADNEY GIESBRECHT
House Parents at the Ranch



DREW SHIRK
Maintenance / Project Assistant in El Chal



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