

JUNGLE BREEZES YOUTH MINISTRIES



EL CHAL, GUATEMALA

SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER



THE RANCH

Summer 2026 has brought us some very warm days at the ranch, but also lots of moisture from several tropical storms, along with the beginning of rainy season. The scampering calves are sleek and healthy on the fresh green grass, and the milk cows are offering us more milk in return for the fresh forage. I love watching the miracle of new life as a baby calf takes its first wobbly steps to find its first meal and in no time at all he is gallivanting all over the pasture exploring the world with his other four footed friends.



Not much has changed in the last several months. We have 12 cows to milk, about 400 laying hens, calves to feed and goats to take care of, so chores are a normal part of everyday, twice a day. Several projects we have worked on the last several months include moving the carpenter shop, and reinforcing the shop roof. We finished out the upstairs of the barn, and moved the carpenter shop up there because the building where the carpenter shop had been was in very poor shape. Abe spent many hours welding up new heavy duty trusses that he designed for the shop to replace the old flimsy ones in preparation for the installation of solar panels on the shop roof.

Many thanks to a small team that came from Berean Fellowship in Canada to help replace the roof. They endured the heat and came up with creative ways to raise and lower the new metal trusses. Many willing hands make light work.



WRITTEN BY: Ivan Stover

We as a team are very thankful to God for His provision through all the donors who made it possible for the mission to purchase a new generator. You realize how much you depend on electricity only after you no longer have it. The new generator is installed and providing all the ranch with energy again, and the new solar system is being installed. It is very exciting to have power to operate 24/7 without running the generator, and we are also looking forward to the savings in fuel that the solar system will give us. We are deeply grateful to God who continues to bless our endeavors to bring hope and stability to the lives of troubled boys; and to each one of you who continue to lift us up with your prayers and support! Thank You! May God bless each one.



GOOD SAMARITAN CLINIC

Recently we had a 42-year-old male come in with an oxygen level in the 80s. His lungs were very tight and nebulizing did not provide relief. His only real option after evaluation for treatment was to go to the national hospital, which he refused to do. He stated that he would choose death over going to national hospital. So, our team agreed to treat him with the resources we had available. He was treated for pneumonia and allowed to remain in one of our consult rooms on oxygen for the rest of the day. He left in the evening at closing time and returned in the morning the next day to be put on oxygen and treatments again.

For three days there wasn't much change and the providers prayed constantly for him. By day four his numbers were moving in the right direction and eight days post he appeared to be back to pre-sickness level. His case highlights the reality for a lot of our patient class. The national hospital is their only option when needing greater care, and is a place that patients want to avoid if at all possible. It's extremely crowded, access by the family to individuals that are admitted is complicated, and often positive outcomes are only achieved by patient advocates pressuring the overworked and often non-empathetic hospital staff.

We are thankful for God's healing in this man's life and grateful that he was able to have a positive outcome despite his refusal to be transferred to a facility better suited to his condition.

WRITTEN BY: Steve Miller



TREE OF LIFE SCHOOL

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO RAISE A CHILD.

Tree of Life school is part of that community. Two hundred and forty children are part of our community this year. When I stop and ask myself, "Whose life has been changed through our work?" there usually isn't a cut and dried answer. Lives have been touched and affected, yes. But usually there are more factors than only the school that brings about change.



The story of Tiana* is an example of this: Before being enrolled in Tree of Life School, Tiana attended a church periodically though her family wasn't church going. She studied at Tree of Life School for 4 years and reflects that her knowledge of God grew significantly during those years.

As she observed some of her teachers, she admired their character and their ways of expressing themselves. This gave her a curiosity about who they were and what their church was like. Several years after graduating, friends invited Tiana to youth meetings and church services. She started attending... first of all youth activities. Making friends with the youth girls and leaders gave her courage to come out to church services. Early this year, after having attended church services for several years, Tiana made a commitment to serve Christ. She is now in instruction class and growing in the faith. She has become a part of the family of God even though her own family doesn't fully support her decision. You can pray that she would be faithful.

Her personal testimony is, "Studying at school was a huge help in my life, teaching me so much about God and giving me a desire to be a part of the church. But on the other hand, it was also others in my life that helped me and pushed me towards making a decision to serve Christ."

Tiana's isn't the only story that could be mentioned. There's the young man who studied for 4 years with a school sponsorship. One of the requirements of a sponsorship is that they attend church. This brought this young man out to Sunday school, church services and youth events. He has now graduated, but continues to attend church and hardly misses a youth activity, having created solid friendships with church people. We see great potential in his life and you can join us in praying that he also chooses to make a commitment to serve God.

I could tell you about one of the young school boys. His mom told me recently that numerous times she has caught him quoting a Bible verse to his older brother when he is arguing with his parents. "What verse?" I wondered, not remembering any that we had recently memorized that would apply to a situation like that. But her reply was quick... "It's a verse he memorized at school. 'Honor thy father and thy mother which is the first commandment with promise.'"

These are only a few examples. As teachers, we are planting and watering and fertilizing. God gives the increase and, in many cases, this isn't seen till many years down the road. But when we see former students choosing marriage over 'shacking up', we rejoice. Is this because of what they were taught as high school girls? When Christian families come to us as a safer option of education for their children, we are glad to be able to provide that option for them. Seeing our students become useful instruments in their churches is another huge blessing. Be the results evident or not in their lives, we are committed to continue sowing seeds and watering and fertilizing. May God give the increase!

*Name changed to protect privacy. WRITTEN BY: Katrina Berganza





A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed funds towards a generator to replace the 3 that were destroyed in the fire at the Ranch in March!

It took a while to get a properly sized replacement unit, and there are still repairs that need to be done to the electrical system, but we are very grateful to have a large generator in service providing sufficient and reliable electricity again!

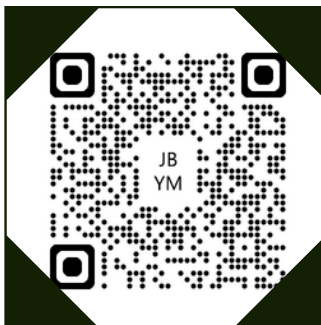
• Organize a Work Group

Contact us if you are interested in organizing a work group. We still have availability for October of this year.

- B
O
A
R
D

M
E
M
B
E
R
S:**
- Kevin Bauman - Chairman (Ontario, Canada)
 - Kenric 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)

• Donate



FIELD UPDATES:

We would like to thank Joe Austin, M.D. FRCS(C) a Retired Cardiothoracic Surgeon for the time and effort he has put into the Good Samaritan Clinic during the last year.

Dr. Joe lives near Seattle Washington and has been coming to Guatemala for the last 10 plus years to help an organization called Faith in Practice. During the last year he has spent a number of months volunteering at the clinic during his trips to Guatemala while we were without a doctor on staff.

We are grateful for the support he has been to our team and the extensive knowledge he brought into our patient consults. Since Mark Nisly, NP and Omar Guadron Franco, M.D. are joining our clinic team, he doesn't plan to continue volunteering at the clinic. We are thankful God placed him on our team for this short blip of time and wish him all the best as he continues to be active in serving humanity through his volunteer efforts.

DORMITORY PROGRESS



We would once again like to thank the donors and work groups who have facilitated the progress of the dormitory construction at the mission base! We took advantage of the dry season to get the cistern and septic tank built along with the roof. Currently we are working at getting the plumbing and showers finished so we can start on the interior walls.



MEET OUR NEW MISSION STAFF



MARK & ESTHER, IAN, KEDRICK, ADRIELLE, NISLY

Mark is a nurse practitioner and will be serving in that role at the clinic. Please pray for Mark and the family as they adjust to life in Guatemala.



House Parents Needed at the Ranch

[January 2027]



follow us on social media for updates

www.junglebreezesyouthministry.org