

Kay and Jim Hines

Guatemalan Girls Life Project

Hesed Life Ministries International

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"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:10

Helen Fabiola Barrios Villeda

In October 2017, Kay and Jim were sitting in a pastry-coffee shop in Guatemala City listening to Fabiola talk about what had been happening in her life. We had not seen her since 2012 when she left Prince of Peace Home for girls. With great anticipation we looked forward to seeing Fabiola but the anticipation quickly turned to sadness and disbelief when she arrived.

As we listened to her hesitant speech and observed her dejected, embarrassed countenance, our hearts were breaking. Is this possible? Is this really Fabiola? She was physically gaunt and emotionally very subdued. We had been deeply involved in Fabiola's life for seven years at Prince of Peace, we knew her well.

She had been a very confident, strong willed, hard-working young lady. She was well liked by the other girls at Prince of Peace but was never one to be led by the crowd. She had been given a guitar and through playing praise and worship music had come into a deeper relationship with the Lord. Now all of that was like a distant memory to her.

She told us that after she left Prince of Peace, she did manage to finish high school and get a certificate to teach physical education. However, she had never been employed as a teacher. Instead she had gotten married and was working as a waitress in low level restaurants. Her husband worked as a helper on a city bus, a very low position with pay accordingly.



Fabiola and Kay

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Maricruz

Maricruz continues to do very well. We reported on her last June regarding the new ministry, Give and Teach, for whom she was working and what a blessing she had been to them and them to her. She continues with the same ministry assuming even more responsibility as now the ministry is in the process of building a facility outside of Guatemala City.

She is on track to finish her Bachelor's degree in counseling this year. However, she has done so well that she has been given the opportunity of continuing to study in 2021. In doing so she will complete a masters level program. We discussed the option with her and believe that it is a great opportunity and she will pursue it.

*Catty*

Catty continues to pursue her degree in human resources. She tried very diligently to complete all of the course work in 2019 but it was just not meant to be. She was required to write a thesis but she just did not have the time to do it.

She did complete her two required internships and will only have 2 regular classes this year so she should be able to complete the thesis and graduate in October.

*School Graduation Update*

In December we had 3 young ladies complete their current courses of study.

Sylvia completed her one-year intense study of English and is now working in an English-speaking call center. As previously noted, her family had relocated to another part of the city to avoid threats from an extortionist. To this date they have been safe but we continued to pray for their safety.

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Continued from bottom page 2 Nincy completed her 2-year program to finish high school. Her desire is to attend the University but for now she is enrolled in English classes to assist her in finding better employment. This will bring more stability to her family and will be a great benefit when she does enter the University.

Alejandra also completed her program to finish high school. She is now considering employment options.

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She also related that he was an alcoholic and frequently did not work which left her the primary responsibility to provide for the family which now included a young son. The husband physically and emotionally was very abusive to her and when she did go to work, he would accuse her of seeing other men. It was heart breaking to see her so broken, physically and emotionally.

She had come to see us because she wanted to return to school. It had been so long since she had been in school that she would need multiple governmental papers to return. We helped her with the cost but then she stopped contacting us.

Our next meeting was 2 years later in October 2019. In the interval she had another son but she was unable to find steady work and was separated from her husband. He and the two sons were living with his mother. Fabiola was living in a one room shack where when it rained, water poured in. It was not a safe place. Her boys could not live with her there.

We did not think it was possible but she appeared even more physically and emotionally beaten down than on our first visit. She told us that her self-esteem was completely gone.

We prayed with her and with God's help have begun a process that will be long and difficult. She will speak with Soledad who is our Hesus contact in Guatemala. Soledad will help in finding employment and in getting legal assistance to get her sons back. Fabiola will also begin meeting with Ninoska, our psychologist.

Hesus will cover Fabiola's living expenses for 3 months to allow her to bring some stability into her life, to focus on school and look for better employment. She has begun attending English classes to better her chances of employment. She now has hope and with God's help we pray for her complete restoration.



Fabiola when at Prince of Peace

Hesed Life Ministries International

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Deisy

One year ago, we reported that Deisy was beginning a new course of study to be an official English translator. This would be her third language after her native Mayan dialect (Q'eqchi') and Spanish.

We are grateful to report that it has been a good year for her. Because of her schooling and work she had relocated to the other side of the city and is now living alone but is close to Mari Cruz, Joselin and Lisdania.

She has now been working 4 years in an English-speaking call center for UPS and has achieved the level of supervisor. Her big smile is always an encouragement to us.



Judith

Judith remains very focused on her studies to be a medical lab technician. She has completed 2 years and is now entering her final year which will be mostly practical work. Her grades are very good and she is looking forward to graduation and employment so that she can provide for herself for her sons.

Both of her sons are now in school full time. Even though her mother lives in the same small town, Judith receives no help from her family. She frequently express her gratitude for our help.

