



Kay and Jim Hines

Guatemalan Girls Life Project

Hesed Life Ministries International

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Psalms 90:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

² Before the mountains were brought forth,
Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Greeting to each of you, we pray that you and your families have remained well. For some we know that it has been a time of loss and heartache and for those we pray God's unmeasurable comfort and presence.

This newsletter will be very different. We will focus primarily on two members of our Guatemalan family, Silvia and Catty. Their stories illustrate in real life why Guatemalan Girls Life Project exists.

In Guatemala, and in most parts of the world, women and especially poor and orphaned women, are seen as having no value. Like disposable dishes, you use them and throw them away. The girls who come to Prince of Peace (POP) home for girls come under court order for protection and provision. At age 18 they are free to leave and being immature, most do. Coming from very broken backgrounds they are desperate for love and easily fall victim to young men who assure them of how much they love them. Then after 1, 2, 3 or more kids the man leaves and the uneducated woman is desperate to have another man come into the house to provide for her kids. She is totally dependent upon and subservient to him and her daughters are prime candidates for sexual abuse. Thus the cycle starts over.

One purpose of GGLP is to provide them with education and spiritual training to become mature self sufficient women who can avoid repeating the poverty abuse cycle.

Sylvia

We remember the 3 sisters in the beginning. The rule at POP Home for Girls was no children under 5 yr. But since the 3 girls were on the streets at night waiting for their alcoholic Mom to take them home, the need was great and all were accepted. Blanca 3 yrs., Rosa 5 yrs. and Silvia 7 yrs. Silvia always took responsibility for the younger sisters and that habit and way of thinking was hard for her to break. She seemed willing to defer her rights and future for her 2 younger sisters if the need arose. Years later, it was very difficult to convince her to have the Quinceanera (15th birthday) event because she did not feel worthy of it.

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Sylvia, continued from page one

But Silvia did well in school. The alcohol had not affected her in the same way as Blanca who had Fetal Alcohol Syndrome with its problems. The other sister, Rosa, was blind in one eye because of an infection with a worm found in the rivers in Guatemala. Neglect was their lot before POP. Silvia continued with good grades and after graduation wanted to attend a University to study business. Hesed sent her for most of one year from January to August. She did not complete that year. Earlier in the year, she told us that she had a guy who wanted her to be his girlfriend. We counseled caution and no physical relationship. But due to problems with a pregnancy, she was unable to complete the year and left the Hesed program.



After the child Ian was 1 yr. old, Silvia wanted to return to school to study English to work in a call center and asked Hesed to pay for 2/3 and she and Ramiro would pay for 1/3. Silvia wanted a better future. The school was difficult but Silvia studied hard for 1 year and did very well. She found studying difficult with a baby and family responsibilities. We spoke often so that Silvia could practice English. Ramiro helped Silvia with caring for Ian and cooking. He worked on car air conditioners.

After completing school, Silvia got a good job right away in a call center and started working. She found that difficult as well with a family but was happy getting up early at 4 am to prepare lunch for Ramiro to take to work. They worked through extortion attempts at his business together. Things went well for awhile.

Then things changed. Ramiro began seeing another woman, Silvia was in denial but eventually moved away with Ian. Silvia does not drive but bought an older vehicle after saving money for a year. She remains dependent on Ramiro to drive her certain places but we are working on driving school for her to be more independent.

Since leaving Ramiro, Silvia calls daily. She feels scared most of the time and anytime she leaves the room where she and Ian live, she is followed by a motorcycle with 2 people on it. She believes these people to be associated with the woman Ramiro is seeing and has asked him to require the woman to stop stalking her. He says he does not believe her.

The other woman called and texted Silvia taunting her and also hacked her FB account all of which had to be changed. The woman tells her that she will take Ian and that Silvia is not a good Mother or person. Because of her background, Silvia asks me if I think this is true? All of this has been very stressful and both Silvia and Ian have been sick. Silvia continues to work from their room while watching Ian.

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Continued from page 2 It appears Silvia will need to move again and make the decision not to tell Ramiro where she is living. She cries often while talking with Kay saying that she never imagined anything like this happening to her and that all she ever wanted was a family of her own. Please pray for protection, and for wise decisions and emotional strength and stability for Silvia and Ian.

Catty

Catty—We reported in December that it would be at least 6 months before she would be able to complete her university degree in Human Resources. But praise God, on May 11th she had her final oral and written exams which she passed. She has now completed all requirements and needs to go through the paper work to receive her degree. It has been a long 7 years of working, going to school and caring for her daughter Sofia. There were many days beginning at 4 AM. She has been very diligent in her responsibilities.

It is a great tribute to God's faithfulness. Catty, at the age of 8, came home from school one day and her mother was gone. Catty had no warning of this happening. She lived with an aunt for a short time but was being physically abused there which led to her coming to Prince of Peace Home for Girls. She lived at Prince of Peace until she finished high school but in all those years, she never had any family come to visit her, most girls have someone. At Christmas when the other girls were allowed to go home for a few days, she had no where to go.

But Catty had a tender heart toward God. She repeatedly expressed to all the people at Prince of Peace how grateful she was for their care and love for her. God's Word tells us that He cares for the orphans. He has walked the path with her and carried her through many dark times but now by God's grace and the help of many of you, she has accomplished what had been unimaginable to her. She will be able to provide for her daughter and not be at the mercy of and totally dependent upon a Guatemalan man.

We rejoice knowing that what God has begun, he will continue. As it says,
1 Corinthians 2:9

(NKJV)

⁹ But as it is written:

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”



Hesed Life Ministries International

www.hesedlife.org

Donations can now be made online using a major credit card or PayPal.

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Joselin & Lisdenia

As noted in the March newsletter, their younger sister Marjorie was killed in a motorcycle accident in January. From the beginning it was an overwhelming grief to Joselin and Lisdenia. We repeatedly reached out to them. Their school was very proactive in working with them, making concessions with their classes to allow them to work through their grief and to facilitate their remaining in school.

Despite all the help and encouragement, it was not meant to be. Joselin withdrew from school first and was committed to helping Lisdenia continue but even then, Lisdenia could not focus on her classes and she also withdrew.

They have moved out of their apartment that was close to the school and live with an uncle and his wife. It has been good for them to not be alone. Unfortunately, the uncle's home is far from the University they were attending.

Joselin has found employment in a call center. She was in training for a month without pay. Lisdenia has begun to look for employment so that they can pay living expenses.

Both young ladies' goal is to return to school this summer when the 2nd session begins. When classes do resume in person they will need to move back to an apartment or have a car to go to school. Even that would be a least a 1 ½ hour commute each way because of traffic issues. Please continue to pray for them. They are very angry with God and speak to very few people. They have stopped going to grief counseling.

