

# Kay and Jim Hines

## Guatemalan Girls Life Project

### Hesed Life Ministries International

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Jude 1:24-25 (ESV)

<sup>24</sup> Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen

As was noted in the September newsletter, our hope was to travel to Guatemala in October. Fortunately, the third booster shot for the Covid-19 vaccine became available to older adults in October and we received it. We were then able to travel to Guatemala on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November and stayed for 8 days.

It had been two years since we last saw the young ladies who are a part of Hesed Ministries. Although it was a special time with the young ladies, everyone was aware that our world had changed dramatically since our last visit. Some of the days were long and traffic was even worse than before but people everywhere were trying to cope with the new normal.

### *MariCruz*

Probably 15 years ago, I (Kay) walked into the Salon at POP Home to find a young 15 yr old girl strumming a guitar looking very sad. Engaging her in conversation with bad Spanish wasn't easy but I did manage to find out that her sadness was because she could not understand why she could not return to her home. She was struggling with forgiving her Mother for putting her there at POP. Although she understood the need to forgive, doing it was more difficult.

We prayed and she left, but I remember later seeing distinct positive changes in her attitude and countenance and knew she had forgiven her Mom and could now move forward. So often our choices have profound effect on us and those around us. This was certainly true for MariCruz. I watched her blossom after this. She was called "la abuelita"- "the little grandmother" by the other girls partly because she thought about her decisions and was serious and careful.



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## *Joselin & Lisdenia*

During our stay we were able to spend an extended amount of time with the twins. This was very good as they had only recently began to talk with anyone about the death of their sister Marjorie in January. Initially after Marjorie's death the girls withdrew, did not leave their apartment unless necessary and refused to talk to anyone including a counselor. They were unable to continue in school. After a month they moved to live with an uncle which was better but there were 9 people in the house and much outside noise.

When they decided to return to school in August they moved to Prince of Peace. It has been good for them and they also began to get counseling and to see a psychiatrist who prescribed medication. They had been excellent students but we told them their goal for the fall semester was only to pass. Remarkably their grades were again excellent.

They have great guilt regarding Marjorie's death. She was their younger sister for whom they always felt responsible and believed that they should have been able to help Marjorie more. They have just committed to attending online grief classes through a local church. We believe this will be very beneficial.

They are now also facing the difficult decision of where to live. In the spring their classes will probably again be online but they would still have to go to the school at least once a week. During exams, Joselin will have to go 4 days that week. It is a 1 ½ to 2-hour trip each way to the school from Prince of Peace. If they move closer to the school, their living expenses will be much more. But more importantly they will not have the peace and encouragement of friends they have at Prince of Peace. This is a difficult decision.

We will close with good news. Lisdenia should graduate in December 2022. In watching her interact in group settings with her classmates she functions in a very mature manner. In addition, in discussing what is required of her at school, we believe she is receiving an excellent education in International Business and should have many great opportunities. We are very proud of both of these young ladies.



## *Nincy*

Nincy and Kay have spoken over the internet many times as she worked on pronunciation of English to be able to get a job in a Call Center. When they worked on past tenses, Kay would ask her about good memories from her past but she had none that were good except the time she lived at POP. She told Kay that one of the worst decisions she made was to leave POP. Following bad advice from her older sister, Nincy and this sister left in the night and never returned. For Nincy, that meant no more free education.

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*Continued from previous page,* Before and after Prince of Peace, Nincy's Mom refused to pay for education for daughters and it became Nincy's job to pay for her own. At the age of 7, she rode a bus into the country very early in the mornings to gather wood and then sold it door to door. In this way she was able to get through elementary school, although without shoes until a neighbor gave her a used pair.

When Nincy heard that Hesed Ministries was helping with education, she wanted to finish High School and worked very diligently to do so. Then she wanted to learn English to get a good job and help her own family, a husband and son. Again, she worked really hard and did well.

Nincy is now in training at a Call Center and one of her main goals is to save money so that her son can have a better life. We are very proud of Nincy and all that she has overcome and learned.



### *Catty*

As we noted in September, Catty had completed all of her course work and was going through the many administrative processes required in Guatemala to actually graduate and receive her university degree in Human Resources.

We are so happy to report that in October she did graduate and received her Diploma. She is now pursuing full time employment in her field but as expected the Covid-19 slowdown and her lack of experience has made this a great challenge.

God knows no limitations and we ask your prayers for employment for Catty.



### *Dulce*

Dulce has now completed 2 years of a 5-year program in Graphic Design. She is gifted and very much enjoys what she is doing. She continues to live with her father in a very stable situation. She has continued to work full time but anticipates that her spring classes will be online. Unfortunately, three days after we left Guatemala, she was robbed of her computer, phone and purse. We are so grateful that she was not injured. The "things" can be replaced.

## Hesed Life Ministries International

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

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### *Yojana*

Yojana, her sister Jennifer along with Deisy and her sister Adela, invited us to Yojana's apartment and prepared a "tipico" Guatemalan breakfast including scrambled eggs, fried plantains (bananas), refried black beans with fresh bread and Guatemalan coffee. Of course it was delicious and a good time was had by all. Yojana continues to do work for a Guatemalan ministry ( Provee) that focuses on education and feeding children. She has major responsibility in overseeing all aspects of the ministry. We had lunch with the founder and director of the ministry who referred to Yojana as amazing. She is always calm and has a big smile.

In December 2022 she should complete her degree to be social worker. She is such a delight.



### *Reina Emelia*

Reina Emelia, like Yojana is studying to be social worker and will also graduate in December 2022. She is a good student and stays very busy being the mother of 3 small children.

For the last 2 years she had been using her telephone to do her online classes. We were able to take her a laptop which will make things much easier. She also intends to begin English classes.



*MariCruz, continued from page one,* Now she is graduating from the University with a Master's degree in Psychology and we and her Mom and family are all very proud of all the hard work and all that has been accomplished. Decisions have consequences and we are grateful that MariCruz decided to forgive and then to put her heart and mind to work for the Kingdom of God.