

Kay and Jim Hines

Guatemalan Girls Life Project

Hesed Life Ministries International

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1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

In October we were able to return to Guatemala to spend time with the young ladies in the program. Similar to the United States, most of the Covid restrictions had been removed. When we were there in October 2021, because of Covid restrictions, the ladies were not able to come to Prince of Peace and we had to meet them in various restaurants. This time however they were able to return to Prince of Peace which they much prefer as it is what they remember as “home” and they get to spend time with their “sisters”.

Things in the larger cities have improved somewhat but life in the rural areas has become even more difficult. Because of recent rain and storms, there has been much flooding with consequential destruction of their crops. There is no safety net and therefore many people are starving.

Blanca Azucena Tipaz

Blancita, as she is called, it is the youngest sister of Sylvia who was part of the program 2 years ago. She spent most of her childhood at Prince of Peace Home for Girls. She came as a very young child at which time she was suffering the effects of fetal alcohol syndrome.

She left for approximately one year to live with relatives but then returned and remained at the home until she turned 18. She is currently living with her sister Sylvia.

She became a part of the GGLP program in January and has been studying English in an effort to secure employment in an English Speaking call center. She always has a very big smile and is a delight to be with.



Blanca & Kay

Graduation time for Maria Raquel & Adela

Maria Raquel

We reported in March 2022 that Maria Raquel had joined the program in January in an effort to complete her high school education. She lacked one year to graduate. She had not been in school for several years and so we were somewhat concerned but she was fully committed to doing well.

With strong support from her husband, they had a very good beginning but he lost his job in May and things became much more difficult for them. They had to move in with his parents but she was able to continue in school and in November graduated from high school.

Raquel now wants to begin nursing school. She can begin with a three-year program that would allow her to be employable at that time and then she could transition into a 4 or 5 year program with a more advanced degree.

Our concern is as we previously when mentioned, she has major hearing loss. She does have hearing aids but they provide limited improvement. We agreed that she would pursue the requirements needed and begin an application for nursing school but also that she would investigate job opportunities as a nurse with a hearing impairment. Once she is stable in nursing school, she would like to begin learning sign language.



Adela

Our second graduate this fall was Adela. As we reported in our June newsletter, school has always been a challenge for Adela but with great endurance and perseverance she was able to complete a modified high school program and graduate in November.

She previously lived in Guatemala City but in October she and her husband moved to the northern part of the country called the Peten, which is mostly jungle. Her mother is there. Adela has been able to find limited employment but must work very long hours with low pay.

We are now in the process of determining if there is a technical school that she would be able to attend. She is very interested in a culinary career.



Jasmin Dulce

Dulce, means sweet in Spanish, and she is just a delightful young lady and always a pleasure to be with. She has a big smile and a gentle spirit. She continues to study Graphic Design at the university. She lacks 3 years to graduate. She is working full time and part of her responsibilities include doing graphic designs for the company. She really enjoys what she does.

In talking with Dulce she revealed to us that she has started a side business of doing decorations and graphics for various occasions such as birthdays and weddings.

She also told us that she will be required to speak English before she can graduate from the University. She has a good background because of her time at Prince of Peace Home for Girls where she heard much English being spoken. Still, it will be an additional challenge for her. She will begin English classes soon.

She is very involved in her local church and is part of the music team. She has a steady boyfriend but assures us that her priority is her education.

Unfortunately, 4 months ago she was the victim of domestic violence in her home. Her grandfather beat her up so she had to go and live with some missionary friends for 2 weeks. She has returned to the home because she does not want to abandon her grandmother. Please pray for her safety.

*Life in Guatemala-a tragedy for Mayra & her family*

Mayra and her husband Edwin, both spent much of their childhoods in homes for children. Both of them are orphans. They are very committed to each other and have one son, Dillon. Edwin works as a waiter and Myra has 1 year left to complete law school. Their great desire as a family is to have their own home. Unfortunately, this has led to tragedy in their lives.

They became the victims of a scam that promised him a job in New York City as a waiter making \$20 per hour. His housing and meals would be provided.

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Hesed Life Ministries International

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However, it required them to borrow from the bank the equivalent of more than 1 year's salary. The catch was that once he borrowed the money at the bank, he had a debt.

Under Guatemala law the bank was able to file papers that prevented him from leaving the country.

Consequently, he was not able to obtain the Visa that was required for him to participate in the program.

Very convenient for the people making the promises and who had already collected their fee.

Now the bank is garnishing one half of his wages to pay the debt. What adds to the pain is that it was someone in their church that recruited them to participate in the program.

Mayra may have to drop out of law school to work to pay expenses.

Please pray that God will make a way for them.



Thank you, Thank you!

As we come to the end of 2022 we wish to express sincere gratitude for your prayers and financial support. It has been another challenging year but as their stories and graduations attest, there are successes. Without your faithfulness it would not happen. Ministry costs time, money, and effort. You are a real part of all of it. You are touching the lives of those very dear to the heart of God, may you know His joy and His peace.