

KAY AND JIM HINES

HESED LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



EPHESIANS 3:18

I hope that you are able to comprehend as my daughter, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep is my love for you.

GUATEMALAN GIRLS LIFE PROJECT

In November we were again privileged to return to Guatemala to visit the young ladies in our “Guatemalan Family”. We were very grateful that we again were able to stay at Prince of Peace Home for Girls. The ladies so enjoy coming “home” and seeing their “sisters”.

Most of the girls are doing very well and some far beyond our greatest hope. Unfortunately, several are facing major difficulties and what their futures hold is very uncertain.

As always we ask for your prayers and say THANK YOU for your support without which there would be no ministry. In January we will have grades for 2023 and will update current participants. For now, we wish to update Yojana who has had a major change, Azucena who is not new but will be entering the university and introduce 3 new participants.



AZUCENA (BLANCA)

Hesed has helped Blanca in the past with English classes and she has been able to get short jobs helping with translation when English speaking teams come to visit different ministries. She works at a bookstore and lives by herself. She has decided to attend a university to become a Social Worker and we will begin this process with her. She seems stable. Azucena is trying to find herself in that she came to Prince of Peace as a babe in arms since she was the youngest of 3 sisters who all needed a safe place to live. Their Mother was alcoholic and the children were often on the streets waiting for their mom to come out of bars. She was a victim of fetal alcohol syndrome. When she was 6 years old, Azucena needed to have her two front baby teeth removed. Jim and Kay took her to Antigua where a dentist from the U S removed the teeth.

She cried nonstop until we returned to Prince of Peace and then seemed proud to show off her “surgery” to everyone. Azucena does not remember her mother or any life outside of POP. She is now exploring life and seems to be doing it carefully and so far with her head on straight.

When Saida and her sister Maricruz came to POP as 10-year-old girls, the director commented that he had never seen such abuse as was in that alcoholic (Mom and Dad) home. While the girls were at Prince of Peace it was noted that Maricruz, the older girl, dominated, Saida who without complaint would do whatever was asked. The girls left the Home not on the best terms and only through persistent contact with them and many invitations to come visit us that they finally decided to come. It was fun to see them interacting and laughing with many of the other young ladies whom they knew at the Home but with whom they have not maintained contact.

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SAIDA REJOPACHI

Continued from bottom of page 2. The Rejopachi girls now live together with their mom and their respective children. Saida has one daughter and works as a dental assistant and Maricruz has 2 children and works as a cashier. Maricruz is a little more distant but, on this occasion, Saida asked to become a part of the program and take a 1-year nursing course that would help her earn more for herself and her daughter. Our experience has been that when the girls can see the direct correlation between their need and lack of resources for their children, they work especially hard to do well. We are proud of Saida for what she has accomplished and we told her so and expect her to continue to do well.



YOJANA

Yojana has recently been devastated by events in her life beyond her control.

She had always wanted to work at Prince of Peace and when an opportunity opened, she began doing teams and various other projects. Then she got a call from an unknown caller. She never should have answered or listened, but she is young and did not know. The caller began to tell her that he knew everything about her, knew that her 2 younger sisters lived with her and knew their names. He also knew that she worked at POP Home for girls and he wanted a lot of money to not harm someone in her life. She was terrified but told no one. He called again the next day and again made demands and threats and she decided to tell others who suggested she go to her mother's house away from the city.

She could not continue at POP because of the danger to the young girls. She found a job at a call center 1.5 hours from her home in bad traffic.

Now she lives in fear and does not know who in her life has betrayed her and given this information away so does not know who she can trust. She has lost many friends. It could be anyone. She has lost so much from this one call.

In another conversation with a friend from Canada who came to Guatemala 30-plus years ago, I was told that a similar thing had happened to her daughter who is a dentist. The dentist and her husband decided to open an ice cream stand and vetted the employees. Soon after, the dentist got a phone call similar to that of Yojana. But the dentist knew what governmental ministry to go to for help and gave them her phone. It was found that the caller was someone in prison. The information about the dentist's family was given to him by one of the workers at the ice cream stand. This ice cream worker had been previously married to the caller but was currently married to someone else. The vetting had not gone back far enough.



MAFER MORALES

Mafer came to the home as a 12-year-old whose father was sexually abusing her at home. She made an outcry to a school counselor. It was later determined that her mom knew of the abuse but did nothing for fear the father would abandon them and she would have no way to provide for her children. Mafer tried for many years to have a relationship with her mother but this has proven difficult. Mafer currently drives a motorcycle to get around and is independent in her thinking. She wants to make her own way and is willing to work at whatever job is necessary in order to do this. She likes staying busy and bought the motorcycle during Covid using it as a way to make money by doing deliveries. She seems very honest and conscientious and wants to study to be a social worker. She should do well in this work.

It is difficult to describe the motorcycle situation in Guatemala. Motorcycles are everywhere and while driving one needs to be extremely careful with lane changes as motorcycles constantly use the space between the lanes of cars to pass and get ahead. Because of the expense of cars, many people of lesser income use motorcycles for personal transportation. But some use them as Mafer does to make money on deliveries. They also serve as family transport (we have seen as many as 5 people attached to one motorcycle at a time).

While we were in Guatemala one of the girls needed to come see us and she had moved to a new location and told us it was very far away. So, we suggested a video call with her. But she found a relative who was willing to drive his motorcycle with her and her 3-month-old baby on the back 20 miles to come see us. We were shocked when we learned this.

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