

# JIM AND KAY HINES

HESED LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



LISDENIA



JOSELIN

## GRADUATION

It was July 2023 when we began to speak of Joselin and Lisdenia graduating from the University of Istmo in Guatemala City, a university with an excellent reputation and known to have very high academic standards. Both of the young ladies were studying International Business. Joselin had a major emphasis in marketing and Lisdenia in finance.

Lisdenia had completed all of her coursework in July 2023 but had not yet passed the English proficiency exam, a requirement for graduation. Unfortunately, she could not retake the exam in time to graduate with her class. She could have taken the exam later and received the diploma, but she would not have been able to participate in the graduation ceremony. She made the decision to defer that until this July to be able to graduate with her twin sister. It was a great honor for Kay and Jim to be invited to attend the ceremony (each family is given a limited number of tickets). It was a time of great rejoicing!

## GUATEMALAN GIRLS LIFE PROJECT

**38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

**39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Romans 8:38-39,**



It was not a surprise but a great delight when it was announced that Joselin was graduating with high honors and Lisdenia was graduating with honors! The real surprise was that Lisdenia had been chosen to give the commencement address at the graduation ceremony. She kept this a secret until she actually walked up on stage, and we realized what was happening. She spoke passionately about her time at the university. It had been a long and difficult process, but she was very grateful for the opportunity and gave thanks to God and to all those who had helped her and her sister along the way. She then challenged her classmates with the responsibility to take what they have been given and go back into the community to give back to others. We are so very proud of both of them!

**A SHORT REFLECTION**

We have now been involved in the lives of these two young ladies for almost 20 years. We have seen them grow from young children into mature adults. During that process, they have become like daughters to us. In fact, after the graduation ceremony, Jim was sitting outside with their grandmother, whom they refer to as “mother” because she has been their mother since they were 3 years old. While sitting there, watching the photographer work, the grandmother turned to Jim and said, “Those are your daughters”. He simply replied, “Yes, they are”.. (In Spanish, of course!). God has immensely blessed us repeatedly through the lives of these and many other Guatemalan girls and young ladies. What a privilege it has been to be a part of their lives.

**NOW WHAT**

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Joselin completed her internship at Disney in Florida in June and has returned to Guatemala. When possible, she has been working in a ministry and helping Principe de Paz in Guatemala, serving as a translator when American teams visit. She is currently in the process of applying for a position with Colgate to participate in an internship/training program. Please pray for her, as this is highly competitive.

**EMILY BETETA**

As mentioned before, Emily is a delight. She has begun dental school and always maintains excellent grades and a positive attitude. She loves learning about dentistry. The dental program will last for five years, and there will be a period of supervised practice before she becomes a full-fledged dentist. She has a heart for ministry and wants to help the poor in her country, as there is a huge need for dental care in Guatemala.



## ADELA



**ADELA WITH HER KIDS (DIEGO & VALERIA)**

Adela is in the first year of a two-year cooking program. Even after having a baby, moving to a new location, and having her husband leave to go to the States for work, she is still pursuing her dream of becoming a chef. We are proud of Adela. In order to continue with her classes, Adela's teacher wanted all class participants to have a stove with a cooktop and an oven. Many in the small village where Adela lives cook over an open fire. However, Adela was given assignments to prepare food at home and bring it to class for evaluation and testing purposes. These assignments included baking. Hesed was able to help Adela pay for the stove and oven, and she is thrilled. We look forward to future pictures of some of her creations!

Adela's husband recently came to the US to work legally. Unfortunately, he does not always have full-time work, and Adela has to find a way to move forward without the additional income that was expected. She misses her husband, and he misses their family a lot. She says that sometimes, when he calls on the phone, he cries.

Adela has a dream of selling the items she makes. We asked her and her husband, Jorge, how they would be able to have a small business without being visited by gangs asking for extortion money to keep their business "safe". Jorge replied that this is why they moved back to the small village where he is from. The village has a volunteer militia. If they are visited by gangs from the city, the militia will kill them, and then there usually are not any more problems. How awful it is not to have police for safety.

## AZUCENA

Living by herself, working at a bookstore six days a week, and taking classes on Sundays in psychology all seem to agree with Azucena. She has taken pleasure in viewing her life and the lives of her family members through the lens of psychology. This has helped her understand some of the craziness and recognize that, because it is a discipline to be studied, craziness exists in the rest of the world as well. This realization has given her some comfort.

Additionally, Azucena desires to grow spiritually. Because of her schedule, she has to look for opportunities to find Christian friends and attend services or a small group when she can. We are proud of her and the decisions she is making to move forward and grow spiritually.



**JIM, KAY, AZUCENA**

**YOJANA**



**YOJANA**

Our visit with Yojana was short, but we were able to see that she has improved in her attitude and outlook concerning the extortion call that changed her life a year ago. She has not been able to return to work for a ministry, so she is still working in a call center with a minimal 1.5-hour commute each way. Over time, the fear of the extortionist has decreased. She is now hoping to have the opportunity to return to ministry, perhaps working with teams from the U.S. Her English is good, and she would be a good leader.

She is entering her last year at the university, studying social work. It will be a very challenging year, as she will have a large project to complete in addition to writing an in-depth thesis.

**NEYDI LIZET**

Neydi has been through a lot. She endured a difficult pregnancy and then took time off from classes to care for her new baby, Austin.

Afterward, she and the baby's father went through adjustments and some counseling, and now she has returned to work. The baby is in the care of a neighbor, and Neydi has returned to class. She continues to study criminal justice, and her grades are good.



**NEYDI LIZET AND HER SON**

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