

# JIM AND KAY HINES

HESED LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



KAY, JIM & CATTY'S FAMILY

Everyone enjoys a success story since it brings encouragement to us all.

We initially went to Guatemala in the fall of 2004. The initial six months were spent in language school. In the spring of 2005, we began to work at the medical clinic at Prince of Peace Home for Girls in Guatemala City. It was only natural that we would also become very involved in the lives of the girls and young ladies who were part of the Home. It has been a long journey, but we've now reached the point that we are seeing and enjoying the fruition of the laborers of many people. This certainly includes all who have generously and sacrificially given financially to this ministry and supported it with their prayers.

## GUATEMALAN GIRLS LIFE PROJECT

For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

**Jeremiah 29:11**





Some of you have had the opportunity to actually visit Guatemala and meet the girls in person. There have been many girls who were able to complete high school and then attend technical school and or language school to be able to secure much better employment and be able to provide for themselves and for their families. In the last three years we have had one of our young ladies complete her Bachelors and Master's degree in Clinical Psychology. We have had two who received degrees in international business from a major Guatemalan university. For this time together, we want to share another success story and that is the story of Catty.

## CATTY

Catherine Fabiola, Catty, began the journey that brought her to Prince of Peace at the age of eight years. She never knew her father, she and her mother were living with another lady who also had a daughter. One day Catty came home from school and discovered that her mother had left. Her mother had never mentioned this to her. Her mother did not tell anyone where she was going. It would be 26 years before she would ever see her mother again.



Initially Catty stayed with the lady that she and her mother had been living with. This did not last long because the lady did not have the finances to support her. Catty then lived with several relatives over the next two years, but in each case, she became the victim of physical and emotional abuse. Finally, someone at school recognized what was happening and took Catty to the juvenile court, and she came under the protective care of the court.

It was through that process that she came to Prince of Peace Home for Girls in 2003.

She was very grateful to be in a place where she was safe and loved. She was well liked by virtually all of the girls. She always had a smile on her face. On numerous occasions it was easy to observe that she was a most grateful child and young lady. She will express sincere gratitude for everything that is done for her.



While Catty's situation was very similar to many of the other girls, it was different in that almost all of the girls had some family, an aunt, cousin or someone who would come to visit them at the Home. And there were times at Christmas when most of the girls could go home for three or four days. Unfortunately, Catty had no family who came visit her at any time. During the holidays when the other girls left, she remained at the Home.

Catty completed the ninth grade while attending the school on the campus at Prince of Peace and then became the first young lady from Prince of peace to attend a large school off campus. America Latina was an excellent school with a very strong, spiritual emphasis.

Catty finished high school there and was certified to teach elementary school, which she began to do. But She still wanted to attend the university pursuing a degree in Human Resources.

When she finished high school, Catty had attained the age of 18 and therefore was considered an adult by the Guatemalan government, and was no longer under the jurisdiction of the court and was free to leave the home. Unfortunately, many of the young girls take the opportunity to be on their own, not understanding how very difficult it is going to be as a single young woman in Guatemalan society with no support from their family.

This is actually how Guatemalan Girls Life Project came about. We saw the need that the girls had for financial help to improve educational skills. Our agreement with was that they would work and we would pay for school which would result in significantly improved educational opportunity. It changes everything for them, their family and their children.

Catty began teaching and attending the university. She had expressed to Dr. Jim on one occasion that one of her greatest fears was being alone again. So, it was not a great surprise when she succumbed to the persuasion of a young man with a resulting pregnancy.

They were married for a short time and then divorced. Cathy very diligently continued to teach, raise her daughter and pursue her education and in 2021 graduated from the university with her Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources.

In 2019 she met Geoffrey and began what was to become a long-term relationship. Our last trip to Guatemala in November to visit the girls in the program also included the celebration of Catty's marriage to Geoffrey. During our visit to Guatemala in July, someone asked Geoffrey why it had taken so long for him to ask Cathy to marry him. His response was that as he began to know Catty, he realized that there were things in his life that really needed to change for him to be able to rise to her level!

Over the years, God had in his timing brought Catty very close to our family. She was not the only one, but she was the first. She had expressed to us that we were as parents to her. And we certainly felt that she was as a daughter to us. Therefore, for us, it was a time of our daughter getting married. We were given the privilege of walking her down the aisle and then speaking at the wedding. The wedding was a time of great joy and celebration, not only for us, but many other people. It was also a great encouragement to many of the younger girls who saw Catty's life and her commitment to God, as a great example for them of what to do and what not to do. The younger ones are always watching the older ones.

Catty has now completed her first year of a two-year program for a Master's Degree in HumanResources. So again, we thank all of you who have been a part of this success story.

**WITHOUT YOU IT NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.**





## AZUCENA

We wrote about Azucena in the September newsletter. This is a short follow up. She did complete the school year and her grades were excellent. And she wrote us the following thank you.

### My Plans for Next Year

I want to start by thinking you for the support you have given me, and to tell you that I am very grateful to God for having put great people in my life.

For next year, one of my goals is to attend church more often and to continue learning. I will also try much harder next year in college, and I will focus on studying, working, and getting ahead, overcoming every barrier along the way.

Knowing that it is my second year at university makes me very happy but above all grateful for you and to God. I thank you very much for the trust you have placed in me.

I know it won't be easy, but I know that with persistence and faith in our Lord, I will be able to achieve my dream. 2024 has been a year of ups and downs, but I know that in 2025, I want to establish myself as a person and find my place.

I want you to know that next year I will continue to keep my promise and make you proud of me. I do not intend to disappoint you.

God bless you

Sincerely,

Blanca Azucena Tipaz León



Addendum: After she wrote the above, she wrote to say that while she was on the bus coming home from work, she was surrounded by four men and a woman, one of whom had a gun. They robbed her of her money and phone. She was very frightened. We are grateful to God that she was not injured or killed. We were able to replace the phone for her.

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