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GUATEMAL



The walls and footings of this church severely damaged.

Guatemala—This newsletter typifies the chain of helping hands that work together to ease the burden of the poor and afflicted. God sheds His love in the hearts of saints at home birthing a passion to support the Gospel through missionary efforts. Churches and individuals had sponsored my scheduled trip to Guatemala when Hurricane Stan struck, just days before I left. I made an urgent plea for prayer and relief funds due to the devastation. One church in particular sent needed funds. I want to use this example to explain how blessings are passed down so the Gospel is spread and lives are changed.

Escuela Integrada, the school Andrew & Rebecca Loveall run for poor children, had students whose homes were filled with mud, but as Andrew said, "long term, the increase in the price of food is the greatest effect of the storm here. The initial clean-up wasn't so bad—but the storm destroyed the fall harvest in most of Guatemala and, consequently, the price of food goes up everyday here." The crop devastation and runaway price increases are the greatest hardship facing the poor. They have extended the student feeding program through the two month break when meals are normally suspended and have included their families. Andrew says, "until the donation, we did not have the funds to do this. This is critical. Our families are poor—already living on the edge. A 25% to 40% in food prices is devastating to them."

Two widows in distress were left exposed to the elements. A carpenter was hired and some of the boys from the school volunteered to repair the storm damaged roofs of the homes located in Ciudad Vieja. They hauled off the old twisted metal sheeting and replaced it with new roofing. These needy widows, Maria Reyes and Mila Chavez now have a roof over their heads.

The Christians of the Mayan Indian village of Chuchua Bajo saw their dream of their own church vanish in the rampage of hurricane Stan. The first church ever to be built in this mountain community was under construction with the foundation and the initial courses of block laid. The storm washed away the earth, damaging all the work. These poor people did not have the funds to repair their future Temple. By God's grace, we were able to bless them with 400



Extended feeding program for those affected by Hurricane Stan

concrete blocks, 50 bags of cement, rebar, gravel, and sand. We delegated the restoration task to the church treasurer Abelardo Cocon, who managed the additional purchases of material and the hiring of the builder to supervise the foundation repairs. The men of the church provided the physical labor and the repairs have been completed.

We need each other for the Kingdom's sake. Nothing gets done in missions unless we work together. We are Spirit led and interdependent one upon the other. There is a home side of support and supply (spiritual, financial and material) and the network of nationals and fellow missionaries on the field. There is not a mission's trip that I make, a life that



Youth assisting in the roof repair to the widow's home.

is touched, a soul that is saved, a Bible School that is planted, a disciple that is developed or an act of charity performed that could be done without precious state side ministry partners, participating missionary peers on the field and fellow nationals that in one way or another have made a strategic contribution.

Now, you can make a difference and sponsor the planting of a Bible School. With a \$1,000 donation we will plant a Bible School and send you a picture of the Pastor and future students along with the Pastor's Name and the address of the School. Vida Internacional's "Bible School in a Box" consists of a 2 year life changing curriculum in a VCD format, with manuals on disc, administrative forms on Disc and a VCD player. If God is speaking to you about this, you can send a check today, and ear mark your gift "Bible School in a Box." Blessings back at all of you that pray and support this ministry.

Together We Touch the World!

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