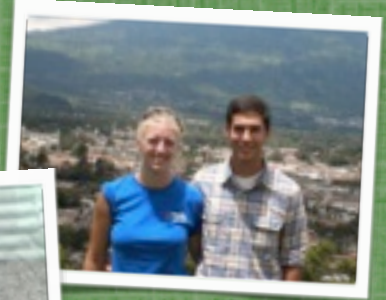


Guatemala Ministry Updates

SEPTEMBER 2010

SERVING WITH STUDENTS INTERNATIONAL

NUMBER TWO



Working together with God and the people of Guatemala to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

Magdalena Microfinance News

New Borrower Group

In mid-May, we formed the newest of our microfinance groups to specifically serve the village of El Gorrion. The five women who make up the pilot program come from a variety of backgrounds and each have their own daily struggles, but they decided to make a commitment to join us in walking beside them in their spiritual and economic development. After two months of training, they received their first loans and are currently working hard to put that money to use in several types of projects -

pigs, vegetable sales, and a small convenience store. Alba, Alicia, Angelica, Dora and Manuela have become an example of faithfulness and hard work for their community by taking this important step towards their families' development.

Loan Impact

Our primary focus through whatever we do is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all those we encounter, and the microfinance programs have provided a lot of time to get to know people in this community. However, God works in his own

time to draw his children back to himself, and we have limited ways to measure the direct spiritual impact on Magdalena. With that

Follow our ministry online at the new SI Guatemala website:

www.siguatemala.com

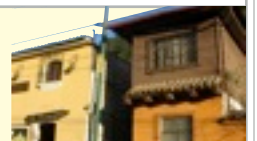
said, I want to share some brief statistics of the microfinance program to try to show the impact on Magdalena. Go to the bottom of the next page for more.

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Micro-business: Animal Feed

Necessity in Magdalena

Through our work in micro-lending, Aaron and I noticed that a large majority of loans are used for animal projects - cows, pigs, chickens - and a significant portion of each loan (almost 75%) is then used to buy animal feed. The primary brands here are produced in Guatemala and then sold through local stores in the community. However, we realized that we could produce the feed at a lower cost in order to provide an immediate economic benefit to our borrowers and to create new jobs. Additionally, we hope to keep more of the loan program funds invested in the businesses around us.

Local production will lead to more jobs, and it is our desire to create a sustainable business that will not only benefit

employees, but we also plan to use profits to create and sustain ministry programs. There are pressing needs for more adequate nutrition among children in Magdalena and the surrounding communities, so helping to fund a feeding program is one idea that we had as a way to reinvest profits in local development.

Beginning Sept 2, a group of local men will produce the first batch to sell within the community, and God willing, the product will be a success. There are two pigs that we have been raising for the last few months to compare the quality of our feed to the leading local brand. Through this test, we hope to build confidence in our animal feed. Praise be to God that despite one pig's brief illness, all is going well!



Local Microfinance Stats

- **69 people have received at least one loan.**
- **Average borrower's age is 43 years, range of 17 - 80.**
- **66% of borrowers work at least part time and earn an average monthly income of \$125 (~ \$5/day)**
- **149 loans extended, 91 repaid.**
- **Average loan amount is \$256, term of 6 months.**
- **Average years of experience per borrower are 9.**
- **Purchasing Impact - 38,000 lbs of animal feed; 1,256 chickens; 57 pigs; 32 cows**



Prayer Requests

Praise God that:

- This summer was a success and that God is at work in the lives of Guatemalans and students from the US to bring transformation.
- The cardmaking business is working well, and many women in the community are excited about the possibility of joining the group soon.
- God has opened the door for me to be able to travel to the US in September to share about his kingdom in Guatemala.

Pray that:

- God will continue to provide funds for growth in microlending and business projects in the coming months and years.
- The students who came to Guatemala this summer have been truly changed and that they will seek to expand God's kingdom wherever they are.
- We will be inspired as we continue to wait for God's guidance in the expansion of the microfinance ministry.
- God will provide the funds for me and Aaron to continue in ministry here. There is a Christian micro-finance conference that we would like to attend here in November and the cost is \$500 per person.



Language Learning and Application



Bilingual Ministry

The importance of language acquisition in international ministry (or any area, really) cannot be emphasized enough; and even so, I have still been surprised in the ways that God has placed me in situations that have tested my Spanish skills in unexpected ways. Translation, prayer, training and teaching, and most importantly, listening have become key parts of each day for me. Learning a new language has been a difficult part of the transition into full-time ministry, but I am so grateful for the progress that God has allowed me to make, even in these five months since returning to Guatemala. I know that with each day that passes, God is equipping me more and more for to be increasingly

effective in the Kingdom work that I am called to do here.

A great privilege I have in Guatemala is the opportunity to interpret for visiting outreach participants because it is in those moments that God uses me to be a tangible connection between two different cultures. What a blessing to share in these beautiful bilingual experiences when God reveals himself. I have seen students and locals greatly impacted by one another's stories and testimonies. Each time I am able to translate, I know that this too is part of my ministry - to be a voice sharing the good news, strengthening the Kingdom.

With that said, I still have a long way to go! Thankfully, people are patient and more than all, God is good!

Thanks for Your Support!

We're a team.

The more time I have spent in Guatemala, the more God has shown me how vast, yet unified He has designed his creation to be. I love the wide range of gifts and talents that God has brought together in this group of men and women, Guatemalans and North Americans, that I call my family here in Central America. Equally important to me are all of you back home who have believed in the possibilities for growth in the Kingdom here and have chosen to walk alongside us by financially and prayerfully supporting us.

Stay in touch. Since we're partners in the work here, please send me a letter (address below) or email sometime to let me know how you are and what's going on north of the border. Tell me how I can pray for you, or even suggest a time for me to call you. Skype and other new technology has made it very easy and affordable to make international calls.

And if you haven't yet made the step towards financial support but would like to start, please don't hesitate to contact the office to designate your gift. We'd love to have you be part of this ministry! →



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