

2018 Annual Meeting- ED Report

I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. Psalm 140:12 NIV

This past October marked the one year anniversary of our move to full time ministry in Guatemala. Brad and I cannot do this without God's blessing and the financial & prayer support from the Body of Christ. We praise God with every victorious step forward in the ministry of caring for and loving others. We also do our best to praise God in the struggles, as we know we can use these difficult experiences as lessons to help increase our dependence upon Him and trust faithfully that our Father God's plans and timing is always perfect.

I wish to thank each individual that sacrificially gives of their finances in order to support the work Brad & I are called to do here in Guatemala. I feel blessed each day to use my heart and skills to work for Recycled Lives and be here giving of my heart to those that are suffering. As I reflect upon the past year and write out this summary report to tell you about the big and "measurable" things accomplished, I can't help but wish there was some way to share the oodles of feelings & interactions we have experienced on a constant basis here. I wish I could sufficiently share each one of the amazing, the heartbreaking and the joyous stories surrounding each of the amazing people we have been blessed to connect with and love on. Every day we witness firsthand the work God is doing in them (and us) through the little & big things we are blessed and called to do. God knows all of these stories and cares about each one of them.

Though we are underfunded as missionaries, God helps us to make ends meet and keep marching forward. Thanks be to God, Brad & I were able to complete paying on the initial 1 year mortgage by the October 2017 deadline that the home seller extended to us. We did this through selling as much of our possessions as we could, using all of our savings as well as through the blessing of securing a personal loan. Recycled Lives entered into a lease agreement with Brad & I to lease the space needed to operate our Guatemala side office, provide storage for the tools, supplies & equipment necessary for program operation and to host missionaries and mission teams. Lease payments go directly to paying the mission home mortgage and some of its operational expenses. It is all a miracle from God how this happened and continues to work out. We praise Him for goodness and provision!

We have learned so much and still have a lot more to learn about how things work in Guatemala and the San Gabriel community so we can continue to advocate for the right kind of help. We have succeeded in small ways to provide unique ways to empower the local persons to help their own community and church bodies. I have managed to learn enough Spanish to carry out many activities without the assistance of a translator as well as carry out basic conversations with individuals when in a familiar context. Brad and I will prayerfully continue to keep our hearts and minds open to areas of ministry that the Holy Spirit is leading us into.

If you are feeling led in some way to give for a specific need or program, are interested in learning how to help a family get into a home either through sponsoring the cost or carrying out a fundraising campaign to raise the funds needed, or perhaps are being called to join or plan a mission team, please contact me via email.

I humbly share the following report of 2017's program accomplishments. May it clearly show that you share equally in the ministry of Recycled Lives through what you do to help in any way. Your role is just as important as our role in Guatemala. We are walking this journey together- all for God's glory! We could do none of this without God and your generous response to help. I thank each and every one of you that joined in this vision and journey in some way.

For God's glory & in Christ's love,



Shawn Johnson, Founder, Executive Director & Missionary Recycled Lives

smj/ Shawn Johnson 1-26-18

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2017 Year in Praise and Prayers for 2018

Praise the Lord, all His works everywhere in His dominion. Praise the Lord, my soul. Psalm 103 NIV

THE RECYCLED LIVES' BOARD OF DIRECTORS: This coming June will mark the five year anniversary of Recycled Lives becoming a formal non-profit. I am so thankful for a wonderful Board of Directors that has worked alongside me to get us to where we are today, operating as a transparent, growing and effective nonprofit ministry. I wish to share a special thank you to the Recycled Lives Board of Directors. Each of you are examples to me in different ways that help me to grow as a missionary, in my walk with Jesus and in the areas of discipleship and leadership. A special thanks goes to Pastor Liz Cheney for her two year role as the board chair & secretary. Though she stepped out of this role this past year, she remains serving on the board and continues to coordinate yearly mission teams. Thank you Liz for helping Recycled Lives operate more effectively & smoothly and personally for always being there, day or late night, to listen, encourage, pray and advise. Your generosity in giving of your time, heart and resources is a testimony to me and so many others. I thank you for the positive impact you have & continue to make for God's kingdom everywhere you go as you use your voice & resources to advocate for what you are passionate about: loving & giving selflessly through being God's hands and feet.

Recycled Lives is blessed with board members that have a vast array of gifts and skills to share and each member is financially & prayerfully invested in supporting the work of Recycled Lives. In 2017, there were a few changes of the Board of Directors. Dennis Troff was elected as the Board Chair & Secretary. In his first year as the Board chair, Dennis has given much of his time in mentoring me and has blessed our organization through his wise leadership and years of experience in the areas of financial planning, business operations and stewardship. Additional changes included the election of Michelle Jilk into the Vice Chair position, Clyde Bloyer was elected onto the board of Directors in January and in October was elected as the Treasurer of the board. Liz Cheney, Kelly Wichman & Dave Wichman remained as Board members. Lina Latvala resigned from the Treasurers position and from the board as she and her husband adopted their son. We sure miss her but are thanking God for the blessed addition to their family and that her family continues to be active in volunteering for Recycled Lives. We are excited to tell you that in January 2018, Julie Tooker joined the board. Please join me in praying for the Board of Directors; Dennis, Clyde, Michelle, Liz, Dave, Kelly & Julie. Pray that they continue to seek God's guidance, hear His voice & that God be glorified in the works they do.

FOOD PROGRAM: Recycled Lives provided supplemental food packages to 137 families (approximately 530 people) that live in poverty in Guatemala. These families came one time per month to a central location in San Gabriel and received a supplemental food package consisting of 4# tortilla flour, 5# black beans and 5# rice. Other items such as hygiene kits, cereal, vitamins & Feed My Starving Children Manna packs were distributed as available/donated. Each month participants received a biblical message, prayer and received information meant to help improve their physical, emotional and spiritual health. We continued to seek cost effective ways in which to operate the food program. One way we accomplished this goal this year also met an organizational goal of equipping persons in the community and Guatemala with ways in which they can make a positive impact in their own community/country. We were blessed to have received a commitment from Saul & Perlita, a Christian husband & wife that live in Guatemala, desiring to serve God through volunteering their time and resources. They volunteer each month to coordinate the ordering and delivery of the food each month. Currently they have access to a truck to haul the 2,000+ pounds of food. Another praise in the food program has been finding a member from the San Gabriel community, Luis, which serves as a volunteer community liaison. His role during the food distribution includes getting the families in line at the distribution, maintaining order as we carry out the food distribution and informing us of concerns and good news that may occur

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during or outside of the food distribution that we need to be aware of. Please join me in praising for our volunteers Saul, Perlita & Luis and pray for each and every person that receives nourishment from the food program, that it serve to be spiritual food for their lives.

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY & SMALL GROUP MINISTRY- We spend a minimum of four days a week (usually 5) carrying out the ministry programs and providing social & prayer visits. One to two days a week are spent in the office operating Recycled Lives and keeping up on bookwork. On Sundays we typically spend the afternoon with a few families we personally sponsor and then host a movie night in the street in front of our home for the neighborhood families. Whenever I have the chance, I spend time just visiting with the neighbor kids practicing my bad Spanish with them and they understand me and love learning English, which is exciting & fun. I love them so much, they are some of the best teachers! I do try to avoid the ones who point and laugh.

In June we began a 12 week "Purpose driven life" bible study in San Gabriel with 6 women receiving materials, weekly classes and video sessions and prayer. This class ended with 3 regular attendees that saw themselves, their families and spouses transformed through prayer and through daily time in God's word. The class was led by Perlita who was desiring to grow personally in her walk with Christ while working with a group of women as accountability & prayer partners. We will be starting another series in the coming months focused on enhancing daily bible reading through a daily devotional and prayer guide. Another small group we started in June was a bi-weekly Saturday art class for youth and adults in San Gabriel, taught by my longtime friend Gustavo whom is an artist, a professional basketball player, and wheelchair fabricator...all from his own wheelchair. We have 10 participants enrolled in the class. This February, the class will culminate in a big surprise for YOU. Each participant will have the opportunity to paint a piece of art that will be auctioned off to raise money for their community!

MISSION TEAM MINISTRY PROGRAM: Mission teams are important to the work being done in Guatemala. Team members bring resources not available here but most importantly, they bring the tangible love & hope that people here need. Teams provide the personal connections and demonstrate that God works through every-day, ordinary people. Typically we would only be able to lead 1-2 teams per year. Being here full time and having the mission home available to host guests has opened the door to more people coming to Guatemala to serve alongside us which has been amazing both for us as missionaries and for the communities we minister. This year we were blessed with 5 amazing teams. Brad and I look forward to hosting and guiding many more teams in the coming year- couples, families, small groups, individuals, we are ready for YOU! Please pray for the people God has called to come to Guatemala. That they be equipped and supported in any way needed to effectively serve. *A full report including the accomplishments for each of the teams is available from the Recycled Lives Mission Group Leadership Committee.

BUNK BED PROJECT: One problem we witness in nearly every home here is children sleeping on a piece of cardboard on the floor or multiple persons sharing a small broken mattress held up by cinder blocks. Good sleep is essential to health and wellness. In answer to this need we started a bunk bed project. Brad, with his carpentry skills, designed a sturdy wood bunk bed and we searched out small family businesses in which to purchase the wood and mattresses. We found a father-son business which hand-makes mattresses. They give us a good deal on mattresses because of the cause and our purchase helps to support the family business. Another fun part of the project is, at times, constructing the bed on site with the children receiving the beds, so they can help and learn how to use tools. This year we constructed 16 sponsored bunk beds. Currently we are limited to having to do bunks when a group of bunks are sponsored so we can afford the rental of a pickup to deliver the materials to the site and construct the beds there. Please pray for the blessing of funding for a beds and for a pickup truck. I can't contain my excitement when thinking about how many kids will have a cozy bed when we have all the resources needed to carry out this project more often!

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HOME BUILDING PROGRAM: Prior to our move to Guatemala, we were only able to construct 1- 2 houses each year. Now that we are here, 6 homes were constructed as funds were made available through sponsorship and our availability to construct has increased. 3 homes were a double room with a kitchen design, 2 were single room homes with a kitchen and 1 was a three room lamina home. 4 of these homes were in the San Gabriel community and 2 were for person's neighboring the mission home with emergency needs. We thank Michelle Lundeen and Clyde & Deb Bloyer for carrying out fundraising campaigns that successfully provided two families a new double room home with kitchen. We thank First Baptist Church's "Tell me more" class along with any of you that gave toward home construction funds- collaboratively enough was raised to construct 2 single room homes with a kitchen for two more families in San Gabriel that owned smaller pieces of land and needed a home. We thank Melody LaBeau for utilizing her employer's matching program (Medtronic-Your Cause) with her generous donation which sponsored a double home with kitchen for a family that has a child with special needs. We thank Michelle Jilk for funding and building an emergency shelter for a family while she was here on a mission trip.

Another home construction project that had a big impact on housing in the San Gabriel community was the distribution of 200 sheets of lamina (corrugated metal for roofing and siding) by the Tower Mission Team. We thank Pastor Liz Cheney & Alex Jordan, their friends & families and the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church Tower for their fundraising efforts and generosity in making this project happen. 23 families received the lamina needed to repair their roof and siding of their homes, a temporary fix until more suitable housing can be constructed. Praise be to God!

Future home construction program needs & goals: Some issues we face in getting many homeless and destitute families in the San Gabriel area into a home is the lack of funds and lack of available land to build on. Of the over 50 families that we have identified that are in need of a home or housing improvements, the vast majority of them do not have land in which to construct. Many lack a rental agreement for the land in which they are living. The owner of the land allows them to "squat" on the land in return for keeping it clean and keeping others out. Permission to construct a home for the family on the land is rarely given. As we look for long term solutions for the housing problems in San Gabriel, it is clear the purchase of land will be needed in the future. In the meantime, we are hoping to resume construction of additional homes on the piece of land owned and operated by a Spain based nonprofit, Quesada Solidaria. This land is where the activity center building used for the food distribution is located and is where we have previously constructed two homes in 2016. There is space for up to 5 more houses, however, before construction can continue, Quesada Solidaria is in the process of implementing the necessary regulations & agreements for the families whom would share the land. Once this is in place, we are hopeful we can resume construction for families that do not have other options. The rainy season starts in June and even with a good shelter, life is so very hard here to dry clothes, find dry wood to cook with and keep things clean from the mud. Please join us in praying for the many families that do not have decent housing in Guatemala. Pray for people to respond to the need to help. Pray for God's blessing in finding a solution to the housing issue for all families.

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For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13 NIV

Summary report on 2017 Executive Director's Annual Goals

1. Explore ways in which a discipleship/mentoring/prayer program, classes and/or support with Christian leaders from the San Gabriel Community can be initiated in order to assist in equipping them to further meet the spiritual needs of persons in their own community. *As explained above in the food distribution & Small group reports above, this goal was met and will continue to be in progress to continue equipping persons in their own community to make a positive impact.*
2. Work with the Board Chair to provide opportunities for the BOD to increase their knowledge of Board member duties, Board operations and fundraising/marketing strategies. *Dennis and I met on a regular basis and maintain regular contact to address this area. We have been successful in creating a foundation to continue to progress toward this goal. In the coming year, we will expand this goal to having the executive board & finance committee meeting on a monthly basis so more specific information that is necessary for committees and board members know is discussed and shared.*
3. Keep the board more informed in the work being done through providing a monthly report to the board sharing the activities and work of the previous month and provide the known schedule for the coming month. *I have provided monthly video "Guates-Updates" to the BOD. I need to continue this but also improve upon the timing of them. Sometimes I would do at the beginning of the month and other times it was quite late in the month. I will schedule a more consistent time of the month to do these updates (beginning of the month).*
4. To seek ways to help committee chairs be more active/proactive in guiding their committees to be more intentional about meeting regularly and are working to address their goals (ie: sending out a monthly email to each committee chair to see if any information is needed and/or relay any relevant information I may have regarding their committee's work). *This goal is still in progress and being worked out with the BOD chair, to transition this responsibility to the BOD/executive committee to oversee and carry out. The planned monthly meetings will allow the Board executives to have the information needed to relay to the BOD.*

2018 Executive Director Goals

The following are areas in which I will focus work efforts in the following year. Results will benefit meeting our organization's purpose and mission.

1. Explore solutions for the current water & lack of access to healthy food choices in the San Gabriel community.
2. Explore solutions & future projects for necessary community improvements (land for housing development, space for storage of tools & supplies, safe play areas for children, community meeting space, trash removal/disposal for the community, road improvements.)
3. Initiate an Educational Support Program with scholarship funds, uniforms and supplies prior to the start of the January 2019 school year.
4. Utilize & implement BOD feedback given through the Executive Director review process.