



GuatesUP?



Many of you have heard us share stories about the God-led friendship we have found in Saul & Perlita, a Guatemalan couple with huge hearts to serve God, their community, our missionaries and our team members.

They have become faithful volunteers for Recycled Lives as well as dear friends of Brad & Shawn.

Perlita shares about how the ministry of Recycled Lives has impacted her life & her home country of Guatemala (*page 3*)

Recycled Lives Board of Directors

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Tax deductible gifts can be sent to:

Recycled Lives

PO Box 408

Cambridge, MN 55008

Online: www.RecycledLives.org

Prayer & Praise

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Philippians 4:19-20

As each person throughout the world is experiencing uncertain times & constant change, we have no better & more valuable response than to seek our Father God in conversational prayer. We come before you to ask that you join us to pray for:

- God's will and Holy Spirit movement within our own hearts to carry out what it is we are to be doing about the COVID crisis and the state of the world.
- All current & future leaders that are making life changing decisions for their countries, communities, circles of influence; to do so with Godly love, wisdom and discernment.
- Provision to get food & medical care to as many as we can that are in crisis and to always do so in a manner that demonstrates God's great love.
- Unity amongst ministries to reach as many people as possible. For boldness in spreading the Gospel; for safety, wellness and strength as they do so.
- Against the corruption and deception of those that aim to take advantage of the generosity of others.
- Pray for our missionaries as they prepare to return to Guatemala for another period of serving.

Due to COVID19 we are unable to carry out many of our annual fundraising activities (Garage sales, bake sales, grocery bagging or gathering type events). We are praying we will be able to meet our budgeted need without having to cut aid to our vital ministry programs. If you are able to help with a tax-deductible gift of any amount (even \$10 gives a nice size food package to a family for a month), we ask that you please consider giving now.

You can give on our website: www.recycledlives.org click any of the Giving buttons or you can mail a check to: Recycled Lives, PO Box 408, Cambridge, MN 55008

Update from the Mission Field: Praise & Prayer- From the Johnsons

Brad and I are now back state-side after 5 months of serving on the field in the midst the COVID crisis. We did all we could with the extra COVID funding provided by our donors in addition to our regular ministry commitments. Our days were long, hard and filled to the brim; actually overflowing. We secretly looked forward to weekend lock downs because it meant time to reset for the coming week, and to clean the home that would look like a dust-bowl, messy disaster because we were too exhausted by the time we got home each day to even think about doing more work. Brad returned to the states 3 weeks before me to be with his dad that suffered a brain bleed. I stayed because we still had funds remaining to use for COVID crisis relief and all missionary partnerships were operating at over-max capacity, it didn't feel right to leave quite yet. Even when that funding ran out and it was becoming clear I needed to return to the states, I tried disagreeing with God and was considering staying longer; but that idea was met with a solid "no" from Brad, family and friends. Once I got back and quarantined for 2 weeks alone, I realized how close to collapse that my mind and body were from burn out. I thank Father God for orchestrating the return back to the states when He did; God knew I needed the solitude of quarantine in a motor home parked in the back yard to quiet myself in a billion ways. ***Father God, we give you thanks & praise that You are indeed here with us as we walk through trials and fires. You are always going before us to clear the path you desire us to be on.***

Though the country is "re-opening" slowly, the food security issues continue as Guatemala's informal commerce (fruits, vegetables, materials & supplies that are grown & fabricated not for export) & the tourist economy of Guatemala were completely shut down for so long. Strict curfews and weekend lockdowns have made poverty explode even more than the "norm" and the complete shutdown of public transportation crippled the ability of workers fortunate enough to have jobs to get to work. COVID has been hard in the states, COVID in developing and 3rd world countries has been devastating. The strength, resourcefulness and fortitude of Guatemalans never ceases to amaze me but it also never ceases to crush my heart that people that are already used to going without for days at a time, now are brought to the brink of starvation, waiting for inhumane durations of time before sustenance comes. We have seen & heard stories of people going for days, even weeks without food, breaking out in tears and dropping to their knees thanking Father God when they receive a food package. The starvation & malnutrition is unfathomable. Hands-down, the poor here would happily trade the TP and bleach that is abundantly available in Guatemala but they can't afford to buy in exchange for a daily meal of tortillas, beans or rice to survive. ***Lord have mercy, hear our pleas for Your manna to rain down and feed the hungry. We pray for Your miraculous protection from the enemy which has come in the form of a virus & starvation.***

Thanks to your gifts, over the past 4 months we have purchased & delivered tens of thousands of pounds of grains, vegetables & staples for approximately 500 extra families per month above the 170 families our programs regularly support already. We have sufficient funding to continue with serving the 170 families we have budgeted for, for this we give thanks to our donors. In the coming months, we desire, no, we NEED to continue to address the food crisis issues for the additional families we have been blessed to meet and serve. But we cannot do this without additional financial gifts. For every 100 persons, every 4-6 weeks it costs approximately \$1,250 to provide 20 pounds of grains and oil. ***Father God, we give thanks & praise to You for generous giving that allows us the ability to help meet the needs of those we are blessed to serve, please provide the funding we need to help more!***

Brad and I are working on getting the last few pieces of documentation we need in order to apply for temporary residency in Guatemala. Depending upon whether the Guatemala border, which just recently opened, remains open for non-resident travelers, this will dictate when we can go back & the method we need to use to go back. For now, our plan is early November, however we remain in prayer about the timing God wants for us to do so. ***Father, nothing surprises YOU. You already have it all planned. May we be patient and faith filled as we await Your answer.***

These are pivotal times as followers of Jesus to respond with the love of Jesus to the circumstances and world around us. May we find ourselves passionately and wholeheartedly being HIS CHURCH through lovingly serving others. ***We thank You Father that the needs are not too tremendous for You. Thanks be to You, oh Lord, for Your love and goodness! May we faithfully and wholeheartedly pursue You! And all God's people said: AMEN!***

Serving in Christ's abundant love, Shawn

A few years ago, my husband and I were talking about our need to help others. We tried to do it in simple ways, to help the neighbor, to help Saul's workers, but we couldn't seem to find a good way to do it regularly or consistently. We tended to be focused on our work and our family, we couldn't find the way. The Lord, however, had His plans for us in this regard. I met Shawn in a very special way, volunteering to build a home in the San Gabriel community when they had called for volunteers & we had a mutual friend that introduced us. I did not know at the time that it was Recycled Lives who had started the food & housing projects to help this community. From that day on, God put in my heart the need and desire to help their ministry and it was fulfilled when my husband had the same feeling when I shared the experience with him. We began helping with the monthly food distribution and we help anywhere & any way are able.

As we served alongside Brad & Shawn, we got to know the mission and vision of Recycled Lives. It is a mission that was born in the heart of Father God for a small community that was formed around a garbage dump. Hence the name "Recycled Lives" because it is how God works with us; taking us out of the worst, out of the waste, away from things that do not serve His purpose and transforms us in His hands into something useful for His purpose. This is how God worked with our family & marriage: making us useful for His work.

I have seen the hearts of those who serve and support the ministry in different projects. You can feel the love of God projected in each volunteer and worker in the various projects: building houses, kitchens, improving housing with metal sheeting, school supplies, shoes, medicine, monthly food distributions, etc. We pray that God will prosper and bless each family that receives help.

So much need exists here! One cannot imagine the level of material poverty. However, the spiritual poverty of those that are served must be met as well. For this reason, giving a bag of food with authentic love is an experience of great blessing from Father God. It fills our soul every time we can serve others with love because at that moment we are the hands of God reaching a family. We recognize that Recycled Lives is an organization committed to serving in this way. We are honored and blessed to work with the same heart as the board of directors and each donor that dedicates their time and gives of their resources for the purpose of glorifying God through serving & loving others.

In this time of pandemic in which distances feel to have doubled; on behalf of San Gabriel and the people that have received support by Recycled Lives in Guatemala, THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your love.

Perlita, Recycled Lives' Volunteer



²⁰... For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

²¹ And we have this commandment from Him: He who loves God, must also love his brother. 1 John 4:20-21

For the Least of These with the Greatest of Love

We are glad to have Shawn and Brad back in Minnesota to take a break from an intense and extended period of ministry that because of the pandemic focused on supplying food and supplies to those in desperate need and often with safety and health concerns. Even though they are back in Minnesota, can you imagine Shawn not focused on the people of Guatemala and how, on their return, to minister with all her and Brad's hearts.

With what is currently known about this pandemic, the critical needs for food, supplies, building repair and individual crises will not diminish, but intensify.

Both Old Testament and New Testament scriptures are replete with admonitions to care for the poor and needy and for Christ followers to be both compassionate and generous. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read Jesus' teaching in verses 31-46, that as we are compassionate to the hungry, the thirsty, the needy, the sick and in prison, Jesus himself is being served and in verse 40 "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Recycled Lives – Brad and Shawn, the ministry board of directors and many volunteers are so grateful for the often unanticipated and generous responses to the financial needs and prayers that have sustained this ministry.

As we look into the future, the remaining months of 2020 and 2021, would you prayerfully consider how you might continue or begin to financially support the ministry?

Here is a list of some ways you can help:

- **Our General Fund (overhead) Gap - \$10,000 October-December 2020** - Undesignated gifts go to cover ministry programs that are not fully funded & to keep us operating on the ground in Guatemala.
- **Supplemental Food Distribution Sponsorships - (monthly food distribution) \$100 annual commitment.** Please renew or start a sponsorship
- **Emergency Food funding – A cost of \$1250 to feed 100 families for a month.** \$6250 would cover the 500 families we wish to continue helping for 4 months
- **Home Building/Repairs Sponsors - \$4500 per home. \$3000 for lamina needs.** Even if you cannot sponsor an entire home, would you consider carrying out a fund raising campaign with your family and friends to help us resume the home building program?
- **Stove sponsors – 20 sponsors at \$200 per stove.** We have found a ministry partnership that can carry this project out and provide more families with more cost-effective cooking in a less smoke-filled environment.

We thank God for each of you.

Dennis Troff- Chair for the Board of Directors