



GuatsUP?

February, 2025



God at work in Guatemala

By: Clyde Bloyer

The honor and exuberance of being able to see and touch the home our family and friend's sponsored for Leslie & Mario's family in the Guatemalan village of San Gabriel was indescribable. To experience life there and see the many families that have received homes from Recycled Lives and its donors is a spiritual journey that you will savor to eternity and beyond. My wife, Deb, and I got to know Shawn & Brad over 10 years ago while attending Elim Baptist Church. They had this crazy call that God had laid on their hearts to go serve a community that lived on and around a garbage dump in Guatemala. To provide food and to build homes for the people that lived there. They have been there now over 10 years showing God's love by meeting physical needs while sharing the love and goodness of Jesus.

Here we are in Guatemala, many years later, guests of Shawn & Brad and seeing the work God has done with and through them! Deb and I had talked about going to Guatemala two or three times over the last several years and for one reason or another did not take the leap. Apprehension and anxiety would come from reading about cultural differences and level 3 travel advisories for the country posted by the US Government. Then there is always the concern about getting sick or an accident happening, etc., etc. This year, 2025, we gave all those worries to God who is our guide and protector and has promised to be with us wherever we go and wherever He sends us. Did we have anxious moments and periods of doubt after we bought the plane tickets and before getting there?...you bet! But we learned that you really can put your faith in the Creator of the Universe and He really does give a peace beyond all understanding. We determined in our heart that no matter what happened it would be on His schedule and His timing, and we were good with that.

The need is great in Guatemala and especially in the village of San Gabriel where Shawn and Brad do most of their ministry work. More than 60 homes have been built by Recycled Lives and nearly 200 families receive a monthly food package. The Recycled Lives' Ministry Center is in San Gabriel and is

the hub of the food distribution and the relational ministry. Worship services are carried out at the Ministry Center on food distribution days and a message about Christ's love and forgiveness is given by Shawn or a missional guest. The lovely people there have soft hearts and are open to the gospel. (see video below)

Our time in Guatemala was sprinkled with endearing experiences like meeting Luis who is a native of the San Gabriel community and serves at the Ministry Center as the community liaison for Recycled Lives. He helps Shawn and Brad connect with & know more deeply the people they serve in the community. Luis is also the President of the San Gabriel Community Development Counsel and is respected within the village. The mentorship & discipleship of Shawn & Brad have impacted him profoundly. They have helped him grow in leadership, organization and planning skills but most importantly have provided the opportunity to live his life serving through the love of God. We were also able to meet Marvin and his son, Orlando, who lead the home building projects in San Gabriel. They too, impacted by the presence of Recycled Lives ministering in their community. We were so blessed to see a home building project in action that Michelle Lundeen's team at ReMAX Results helped raise the funds for. We prayed over the home while we were there, and a formal dedication was done just a couple days after we left Guatemala when the home was finished. (see video below)

One specific & urgent item that jumped out at us as we visited San Gabriel, is the amount of repair work and fix-it things that need to be done. There are a number of smaller projects that don't get mentioned in light of the larger needs like the food distribution to get food on tables or to build a home. A few examples we saw of urgent need were seeing houses with rusty metal roof sheeting (lamina) with holes, broken roof beams that hold up the roof and rotted door jambs causing a door to no longer provide safety. The intense heat and humidity are tough on even solid wood and metal roofs. I had to ask the typical American question of "why don't they just fix these things?" We would simply run out and buy what is needed and get it done or would hire someone to do it. There is a simple answer for why the San Gabriel people can't and don't do the fix-its. They certainly have the ability, and they are not afraid of work. They just simply have no money to buy the materials to do even basic maintenance projects. Most San Gabriel families may have just enough money to buy very basic necessities for surviving day to day. Few have any money for an extravagance like fixing broken things. When walking by their homes you see they are being extremely resourceful with the little they have.

There is a need here that we should get after as supporters of the work Shawn & Brad are doing in Guatemala. It is very satisfying to give to a specific need for any ministry. It's tangible and you can see exactly what the giving accomplishes like purchasing a vehicle or building a home. Those are important and need to be done! But there is even a greater blessing when giving to a ministry for ministry needs and just saying "use it where needed most". These donations can be used for things like fixing broken beams, leaking roofs and repairing doors. It also allows the team on the ground doing the ministry to direct those funds to the most urgent needs they are seeing that don't fall on a line item in a budget. When we give to Recycled Lives we pray for God to use the funds to accomplish His purposes and also to encourage Shawn and Brad in their ministry. In doing that we also trust that God will direct

them to use the funds wisely. After shadowing Shawn & Brad for a week I can assure you that each dollar that is given is prayed over and used for God's purposes in spreading the Good News and meeting physical and spiritual needs. It is amazing what is being accomplished in San Gabriel with the finances available!

In closing, as you pray over Shawn and Brad and their ministry to the people of San Gabriel, please consider asking God how best you can serve Him in the Recycled Lives ministry. Going there is something you would treasure for eternity. Working with them and serving alongside of them is amazing. Giving of your financial resources is a twofold blessing, it blesses you as the giver and it both blesses and encourages them to minister more freely as God moves their hands and feet. Lastly, Prayer...we can never pray too much for encouragement for Shawn & Brad and for the Holy Spirit to lead them and strengthen them. For God to give them great wisdom and courage and a special anointing as they share the love of Jesus to these precious people. Amen

Clyde prepared a heart touching message about the goodness of God which was translated and shared during the monthly food distribution. His message included a prayer and meditation time to the Spanish version of this song. Would you consider closing your eyes, listening and meditating to it as we did?



A little clip of our worship and meditation on the goodness of God with one of the three food distribution groups

Thank you TEAM LUNDEEN RE/MAX RESULTS for yet another beautiful home for a deserving family in San Gabriel, Guatemala! Luis & Gaby send their thanks and appreciation to each person that made their dream become a home! This past week, we have started home #2 from the incredible fundraising efforts that Team Lundeen led this past year.



MARCH 21, 2025

ANNUAL SWEET ON GUATEMALA EVENT

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SAVE THE DATE!!!						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29



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