

HEART TO HEART

The latest news from *Connecting Hearts Ministry*, a ministry of Chapel Hill Christian School

Meaningful Moments in Guatemala

Six Chapel Hill Christian School students, along with their parents, visited Guatemala recently. We invited them to share a special memory from their week in Guatemala.

Brittian and Emily Bollenbacher



Emily and her sponsored child

I enjoyed meeting the children in Guatemala. It was fun playing jump rope and throwing a ball and a pink balloon back and forth. I saw a little girl in a blue soccer shirt smiling at me. I noticed that when she smiled she had a gap where her front teeth were missing. We became friends, and she wanted me to carry her all the time. My dad and I decided to sponsor her.

Since we have been home, we have been praying for the children in Guatemala. We've been praying that they will do well in school, learn more about Jesus, and that their families will be well.

Ken, Jennifer, Jonathan, and Benjamin Meybaum

Meeting Hyberson, our family's sponsored student, was very meaningful to us. We had so much fun playing with him – joking around, racing each other, and having invisible sword fights. We were able to visit his home and meet his family and his pets, including a dog, a pig, and ducks. We were able to have a picture taken of both of our families together. When we had to say good-bye to our dear friend, it felt as though we had known each other for our whole lives.



The Meybaums and Hyberson's family

Jeremy and Madelyn Music

One of the most impactful experiences of our time in Guatemala was visiting homes. Some were block and concrete. Others had stick walls and dirt floors. To some we walked along city streets and to others we traveled steep foot-paths. Some had electricity. Others did not. But in these homes,



Madelyn visits Hyberson's home

so different from ours, are people... People with lives, stories, hardships, and blessings. People for whom Jesus died. People He is working with, caring for, providing for. People in whom He is advancing His kingdom. None of these people spoke the same language we did, but all had the same Savior. It is incredible to know God is at work everywhere, all the time. There is no place too different or remote for Him. He is never out of His element, and He is using His church everywhere to encourage and evangelize. It was incredible to witness this first-hand, and we are extremely grateful for the experience!

Brandon, Ann, and Nathan Wagner

Brandon, Nathan, and I experienced many meaningful moments in Guatemala. Seeing first hand what a sponsorship can mean for an individual child was overwhelming. It changes their lives. We were able to meet and sponsor Fredy at the San Marcos School. We met and learned the stories of our translators. Each one was authentic, kind, compassionate, caring, fun, and loving. The paths these students have traveled, how they continue to give back to the ministry, their joy and love are incredible. In spite of things being much more difficult to accomplish in Guatemala (from cooking to having basic water and electricity), we saw love, joy, and a simplicity in their lives.

We could feel the Lord working while we were in Guatemala in ways we rarely feel here. I wonder if they are more open to hearing
continued on back...



Dear Friends... A NOTE FROM OUR MINISTRY COORDINATOR

I am so thankful that I was able to watch God work in and through our CHCS families as they ministered in Guatemala. I was amazed at how our sixth graders selflessly gave of their time, energy, and resources to show the love of Christ to everyone around them. They were a reflection of our Heavenly Father, shining bright in Guatemala.

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16



In Christ, Kelly Foguth



The Wagner family meets Fredy

God speak as they go throughout their day or week. Maybe we are just too busy and caught up in “stuff.”

We really enjoyed our trip and believe that this experience will stay in our hearts forever. We talk about Fredy and the trip all the time. We look forward to watching Fredy become all that God wants him to be. We pray for him and the Connecting Hearts Ministry each day and feel blessed to have been part of this trip!

Janet and Samantha Williams

The country of Guatemala is beautiful with mountains, volcanoes, and stunning landscape. The people are warm and inviting, opening their hearts and homes. I experienced many things in La Tinta, from organizing and handing out school supplies, to fitting shoes on students' bare and dirty feet. While the children waited to be fitted, you could see the hope in their eyes that one of the pairs of shoes would fit them. But even if they didn't, there was no fit, no tantrum. They graciously turned and accepted the extra uniform shirt instead.

The most heart-warming moment for me was watching Samantha meet and spend time with our sponsored student Krisley, a beautiful and affectionate second grader. The evening we visited her home and met her family, La Tinta lost power due to heavy rains. So we experienced the visit by candlelight. Listening as Krisley's dad introduced each family member, including the age of each, was my best memory. It was an awesome scene where we felt God's presence and love. It was very hard to leave Krisley's home and watch Sammy cry as she said her goodbyes, but we also felt a deep contentment, knowing that the family will be all right.



Krisley and Samantha

Stephanie and Calvin Warren

When I was in Guatemala I saw how much of an impact our sponsorships are making on these children and their families. I have a sponsored girl named Kimberly. I've been sponsoring her for five years, but I never really realized how much we are affecting her life. I always thought that we were just sending her to school, but I discovered we're doing so



Stephanie and Calvin meet Kimberly

much more than that. When we went to Kimberly's home I noticed that it was very dark, with a space between the stick walls and tin roof. We started talking about her family and learned she has two brothers and two sisters, but Kimberly is the only one in her family who can read. Her mom said Kimberly was reading the Bible to her entire family. I thought that was amazing. That showed me how much of difference we are making.

Praising...

What a joy to see Ange and her grandmother attending church every Sunday as a result of Ange's sponsorship. Because she did not have a Bible, Ange's grandmother wrote down every verse the pastor shared during his sermon. How wonderful that God already knew this need and had touched a CHM friend to provide Bibles!



Ange and her grandma

God has been faithful to touch hearts to share offerings toward the construction project at the San Marcos School. During “summer” vacation (October to January), two more large classrooms were built. In addition, the two houses on the property were remodeled to make an office and temporary classrooms for Kindergarten and first grade.

CHCS North and South are combining efforts for their Spring Missions projects to build a wall around the San Marcos School's new construction. This property is often used as a shortcut. Locals prefer its nice new bathrooms to the outhouses in their homes. Because of this, it is common to find outsiders walking on the property, making it necessary to build a surrounding protective wall, something very traditional in Guatemala. Although the CHCS missions projects will only be able to provide a portion of the wall, the children are excited to begin this addition to secure the property!

Praying...

Rachel Truthan, CHCS graduate, continues to live and minister in Guatemala. Rachel teaches English at the Amigos School and makes monthly trips to the San Marcos School to share God's Word.



Rachel teaches English



Beth meets the children sponsored by Northside Christian

Beth Honnold and her elementary students at Northside Christian Academy have used their God-given gifts to hold talent shows. The offerings at the events have allowed the students and families to sponsor several children. Beth met these students during the last trip to Guatemala. Please pray as God is touching the hearts of the NCA children for missions!

CONNECTING HEARTS MINISTRY A MINISTRY OF CHAPEL HILL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



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...From One Heart to Another