

# HEART TO HEART

THE LATEST NEWS FROM **CONNECTING HEARTS MINISTRY** – A MINISTRY OF CHAPEL HILL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## God Fulfills His Purpose

Psalm 138:8 promises that “The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me.” Nowhere have we seen that more clearly than in the life of Luis David Chavez in Guatemala. We first met Luis in 1996 before there was a Connecting Hearts Ministry.

Danna Hall, former CHCS Spanish teacher, shares her early memories of meeting Luis David: I received a grant to spend the summer in Guatemala, meeting the three children our CHCS Spanish classes were sponsoring through ACSI. During the two weeks I spent in Peronia meeting one of our children, I visited the Amigos Church and met a family that deeply touched my heart.

A dear grandma was raising her three young grandchildren who had been left alone when their mother passed away and their father went to the USA. Having no source of steady income, Grandma did whatever she could to provide food – sent her grandchildren into the streets to sell plates she had received as a wedding gift, bought baskets



Luis with his faithful grandma, brother, Cristian, and sister, Cintia

of fruit and vegetables and sold them piece by piece in front of her house to earn a few cents. But often they did without. Without food. Without electricity. But never did they do without their faithful attendance at church and prayer meetings nor their daily times of praying together in their home. God heard and answered those prayers.

As I returned home and began sharing stories of my summer trip, my brother, a young bachelor at the time, was touched by the story of this family and began providing a fund for the church family to purchase food for this family each month. The three children share memories of those days when once a month they had a table full of groceries and EVEN MILK AND CEREAL! My brother Dale, and later other family members, provided tuition for the three children, who were some of the first students to attend the Amigos Christian School.

Luis David, the oldest of the children, took on the role of father at an early age, feeling a responsibility to care for the others. He was in the first class to graduate from ninth grade at the Amigos Christian School. Not wanting Luis's education to end at ninth grade, Dale searched for a Christian high school, found America Latina Christian School, and then provided his education through Mariano Galvez University, where Luis studied law. After finishing college, Luis began legal work for an insurance company.

His career in insurance flourished, thanks to the hard work ethic Luis learned as a child. He quickly rose to the top of the best insurance companies in Guatemala and was awarded good salaries and trips. However, the focus on success came with an aban-

doning of the things of God. These years of financial and career prosperity led to a gripping struggle with addictions, leaving him in a dark place, feeling helpless and hopeless.



Luis while studying in high school

It was at that point that he remembered his roots at the Amigos Church and turned to Pastor Darwin Oliva. Luis committed his life to Christ and is today a changed man. He now spends a great deal of time studying God's Word, being mentored and discipled, and is ministering to the young people at the Amigos Church. He is bold in sharing his faith with both strangers and friends. Luis and his wife Mónica head up the church's



Luis and his wife, Monica, serve their community with bags of food

ministry of sharing food with members of the community who have been devastated by COVID. He uses this opportunity to pray and share the Gospel with these families. Luis's life is a great joy and testament to the Psalmist's words that “the Lord will fulfill His purpose” in our lives!



### A NOTE FROM MINISTRY COORDINATOR KELLY FOGUTH

It has been a privilege to help in new ways during the pandemic in Guatemala. God has blessed CHM with donations which enable churches to reach out in their communities. One church, located in an impoverished area, started a Sunday morning children's program which includes a Bible lesson, worship, and outdoor activities. As the children return to their homes, they are given a plate of warm food. Another church provides large bags of food for families in the community, many who have started attending church regularly because of this ministry. We praise God for His provision to help feed the hungry, both physically and spiritually!

*“Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out of the darkness, and the darkness around you will be bright as noon.” Isaiah 58:10*



# Ministry of Encouragement

As the Body of Christ, we are called “to encourage one another and build each other up.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Carol Traugh, a long-time friend of Connecting Hearts Ministry, has been faithfully encouraging teachers at the Amigos Christian School for years. During her visits to Guatemala, Carol plans creative and fun activities for the teachers – everything from coffee and muffins with morning devotions, fun-filled luncheons, and coloring and hunting Easter eggs. She always includes encouragement from the Word of God and lots of joy and



Teachers arrived dressed up as someone in the Bible

laughter. Every teacher leaves these activities feeling loved and refreshed. Annually, Carol prepares a themed party for the teachers. In past years, they have

enjoyed Hawaiian, circus, cowboy, soccer, beach, baseball, Christmas, and Valentine themes. This year the theme was “Bible Characters.” Teachers arrived dressed very creatively as a person from the Bible. They shared a verse describing themselves, and others had to guess what Bible character they were. After lots of food and games, the teachers left, expressing their deep gratitude for Carol’s efforts to give them a wonderful opportunity to grow in love for one another and the Lord.

Thank you, Carol, for your great ministry of encouragement for these dear teachers!



Games and laughter at every teacher party



Principal, Lily Vargas, poses in her Bible costume

## PRAISING

On September 15, 2021, Guatemalans celebrated 200 years of independence and freedom. Thank You, Lord, for the freedom Guatemalans have to gather together to worship You and share the Gospel.

Donations provided eleven used iPads and many tablets for sponsored students. Parents expressed heartfelt appreciation, with tears in their eyes, for these devices which allowed their children to connect to their online classes.



Oscar and Eduardo are so happy to have tablets to connect to their classes

Congratulations to Carlos David Rivera for receiving a scholarship to study in a Masters program in Architecture at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam,



Carlos ready to begin his new adventure in the Netherlands

founders of the Amigos Christian School. Carlos David has been sponsored by Connecting Hearts Ministry since Kindergarten and has been a diligent, high-achieving student with a heart to follow the Lord in all he does. We’re so happy for this honor in the life of a well-deserving young man!

Netherlands. This scholarship includes all expenses for travel, room and board, and tuition at one of the Netherlands premier universities. Carlos David is the son of Carlos and Ismeri Rivera,

The 2021 school year is the second year that all students in Guatemala, including our sponsored students at the Amigos School, are attending school online only. Pray that children can return to in-person classes when the new school year begins in January 2022.

Pray for ninth graders who are preparing to graduate from the Amigos Christian School in October and begin high school in January. Pray they will transition well, make good friends, and succeed academically in their new environments.

## PRAYING

Please pray that the Lord will give a sense of peace to the people of Guatemala, in spite of the events of the last 18 months. Pray that He will meet their daily needs and provide safety from the virus.



*From One Heart to Another...*

**CONNECTING HEARTS MINISTRY**

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