

HEART TO HEART

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

A Trip to Remember by Janelle Gehman

When I think of Guatemala, I think of love and joy. I hear squeals and laughter that don't need a translator to explain. Even though it's been two months since my trip with Freshwater Community Church, my heart is still full with the kids' infectious joy and love.

This joy was present in the preschoolers all the way to the college students, as well as in the translators and teachers we worked with. I especially sensed it in the church service on Sunday. My hands hurt from clapping as I stumbled through Spanish worship songs, feeling closer to God than I had in quite a while. Faith was just as present as joy. This was evident during a home visit to a small house with humble furnishings. When we asked the family what we could pray for, they replied that they just wanted God to continue to bless them.



Janelle making connections at recess.

We also visited our youth group's sponsored student, Brandon. He shared about



Praying with a family after a home visit.

his dreams of becoming a cardiologist, the struggles of the extensive exams to get into college, and how stress had taken him to the hospital. Every day he wakes up at 3:30 a.m. to make it to school on time. When he returns, he helps take care of his two younger sisters and studies late into the night in a dark, dirt-floored room surrounded by cats. He emphasized repeatedly that he wanted to make us proud. We told him with tears in our eyes that he did not have to earn our favor. We would love him



Freshwater Youth Group visiting with Brandon and his family.

no matter what, and God did, too. This was extremely impactful to him and to me.

Before the trip I felt inadequate, like I didn't belong, and God couldn't use me because I wasn't "holy enough" or "perfect enough." We gave the college students an identity bracelet that explains who we are in Christ, and we were asked to share personal examples. I didn't think I had anything to share, but one of the truths stood out to me. It is that we are not inferior but seated with Christ in Heaven (Ephesians 2:4-6). At the college meeting, I shared about this truth and saw God redeem my struggles for good. Although this trip didn't completely fix that issue, I was reminded that inferiority is a lie and that I belong to Christ.



Youth Group shares with the college students.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to have gone on this trip and to have experienced everything that God did through it in my life, as well as in the lives of the group and the kids we served!



DEAR FRIENDS... A Note from our Ministry Coordinator by Kelly Foguth

I love to see how God works in the lives of groups that come to serve in Guatemala. Many times, there is uncertainty before the trip begins because of the differences in culture and language. But God quickly replaces this with an unspeakable joy and compassion for the people of Guatemala. He moves in wonderful ways to connect hearts and form bonds that will last a lifetime. For many, this week spent serving the Lord becomes a life-changing experience.

"And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." Isaiah 6:8

PRAISING...

♥ Many sponsored students are now attending Youth Group on Saturdays at the Amigos Church, led by Luis Chavez, César Chún (both formerly sponsored students), and Pastor Darwin. Not only do they study God's Word and enjoy fun activities, but they are also involved in leading worship at church and serving in many outreach projects – providing food to the needy, praying with people waiting outside hospitals, and ministering to the homeless.



Sponsored students lead worship at the Amigos Church.

♥ We are thankful for Godly teachers at the Amigos School. Whether teaching long hours or showing up on Saturday to paint, they are eager to serve. .



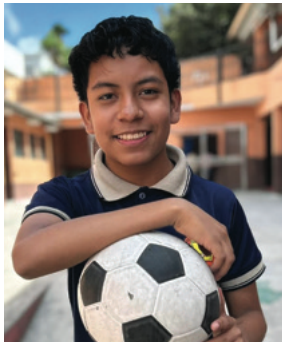
In appreciation, for the staff's hard work, CHM hosts an annual teachers' party, which is a highlight of their year.

Kelvin, a technology teacher, arrives excitedly for the teachers' party.



Mimi, Amigos staff member, paints bathroom stalls.

PRAYING...



Juan Francisco recently lost his mother to cancer. Please pray for this dear boy.

♥ Several of our precious sponsored students have recently lost parents due to sickness and other catastrophes. Life is hard in Guatemala. Please pray for God to use their sponsoring families to bring comfort and encouragement.

♥ Please pray for a group from the Amigos Church, including several sponsored students, who are reaching out to homeless Venezuelans living near the

downtown bus station. They have a time of worship, share an evangelistic message, and provide a meal for nearly 100 people, made possible by CHM friends.



Many have accepted Christ during services for the homeless.

DID YOU KNOW?

♥ Seventh, eighth, and ninth grade girls at the Amigos Christian School enjoyed an overnighter, thanks to CHM friend Carol Traugh. This was the first time many had spent the night away from home. Throughout the evening, they decorated cookies (also a first for the girls!), made s'mores around a campfire, and designed a kindness journal to remind them of the theme for the night – Kindness. Several older sponsored students assisted Carol with the activities. What a fun night!



Alejandra and Evelin were great assistants with bracelet making at the overnighter.

♥ Individual sponsorships are a wonderful way to make a lifetime impact and friendship with a family in Guatemala.

Sponsorships are available for CHCS families and friends by contacting CHM Director, Kelly Foguth at KFoguth@chapelhillchristianschool.org.



From One Heart to Another...

CONNECTING HEARTS MINISTRY

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