

HEART TO HEART

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

Delight Yourself in the Lord

by Mandy Moyer

Did you hear this verse as a child and imagine all the grand things you could “get” from God? *“Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4*

When I was a little girl, I heard these words and thought, “How wonderful! If I love Jesus, He will give me everything I want. I want a pony, a pink and purple bike with a banana seat and streamers on the handlebars, and an endless supply of Twinkies.” I gradually realized He must mean something different because no matter how much I worked at loving Him, I never did get the pony or the bike. And thank goodness He didn’t give me those Twinkies!

Over my lifetime journey of walking with Him, I learned there is more depth to this verse than temporary happiness and things. Still, there were many times I found myself still focused on the second part of the verse. When things didn’t go the way I planned and prayed for, I would get indignant. “God, I’m trying to live for you, but you didn’t give me what I was praying for! That’s not FAIR!” Can you relate?

During our mission trip to Guatemala in January, God brought this verse to mind many times. His Word convicted me of how wrong I have been. He doesn’t want to give me my selfish (disgusting) desires for comfort and contentment in things of this world. Rather, when I delight in the Lord and His purposes and plans, He will supernaturally transplant His desires into my heart. They become my desires. Desires to love and serve others so they also will come to a saving knowledge of Him. Desires that free me from the toil and grind of this unbelieving world, hyper-focused on working and striving to get and gain. God allows us to rest and simply abide in Him, and we find joy and peace in the process. Aren’t those much better gifts than ponies or even Twinkies?

How did He prune away my incorrect understanding of this verse? By showing me the beautiful faith of the people of Guatemala. They truly know what it means to delight in the Lord. Their joy radiates from them, even while they suffer in situations we can’t even begin to understand. Their reliance on the Lord is deeply rooted in their understanding of His faithfulness. Their love and generosity for brothers and sisters in Christ is felt in the warmth of their welcome and hospitality. Spending an hour in any of their humble homes leaves a lasting impression of what Christian community can be when we delight in the Lord.

I tell people that before my first visit to Guatemala, I had no desire to make the trip. My fears and worries, and sadly, my concern about being safe and comfortable, would have kept me snugly tucked into my warm bed at home. But thankfully, God placed a huge desire in my daughter’s heart to go. Sometimes He works through our kids to teach us big lessons, doesn’t He?



Mandy and Chris Moyer visiting sponsored boy, José



Guatemalan family inspires group, displaying deep faith through tragedy



Boys take on a “big brother” role during a home visit



A NOTE FROM MINISTRY COORDINATOR KELLY FOGUTH

Words cannot describe how wonderful it was to bring groups to Guatemala after three long years. God used the groups to bring so much joy and laughter to the students that were finally back in person at the Amigos School. Impacts were made, not only for the students, but also for the Americans that made the journey. Hearts were changed and forever connected to people that they would now consider “family.”

“And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Colossians 3:14

Delight Yourself in the Lord *continued from page 1*

So, we packed our bags and left for a place that would completely change my understanding of what it means to be granted the desires of my heart. Seeing God's beautiful people in another country, my heart was stripped of MY selfish desires and replaced with His desire to share the Gospel, share what I had to care for my brothers and sisters in Christ and share my time in service to His people there.

It left a lasting impression and was the same for others on the trip. We came home with our hearts filled with longings to do more, to give more, and to return again to our brothers and sisters in Guatemala. His desire to love and bring others to His family has become the most important thing. We can truly understand what it means to delight in Him and be granted the desires of our heart because it is His heart.

CHM GRADUATION by Danna Hall

Eight students recently graduated from the Connecting Hearts Ministry sponsorship program. These students successfully completed all the university coursework for their college degree, an accomplishment that takes a great deal of effort and diligence in Guatemala. In January, CHM hosted a dinner in honor of these students to congratulate them for their perseverance. In addition to a diploma, each student received a framed picture of their first and last CHM portrait, as well as a flash drive containing pictures taken throughout all their years of sponsorship. Kelly Foguth and Danna Hall shared memories of each student from earlier years and challenged them from Joshua 22 to live a life pleasing to the Lord, walking in obedience to Him and serving Him with all their heart and all their soul.



Danna and Kelly celebrate with the CHM graduates: (left to right) Astrid, Sofia, Isaac, Brenda, Alejandra, Jenmy, and Deysi

DID YOU KNOW?

📍 In January, nine sixth-grade CHCS students and four eighth-grade alumni traveled to Guatemala with their parents and grandparents to serve for a week. A group of retired teachers joined them: Dean Barrett and his wife Susan and Jean Mellor and her sister, Pam Brown. It was a heart-warming experience to meet and enjoy time with the students they have sponsored for years, some now adults with their own families. God is truly connecting hearts!



CHCS retired teachers: Danna Hall, Jean Mellor, and Dean Barrett

📍 Someone once said that, up until third grade, students learn to read, but by fourth grade they read to learn. With that in mind, each fourth grader at the Amigos School was given a new Bible from a home Bible study group in Westfield, Indiana. Instead of their usual Christmas exchange, the group decided to give the money they would have spent on a gift toward the purchase of a Bible. As the fourth graders were told they were each getting a new Bible, one girl shouted "I've always wanted a Bible!" Another girl, new to the school, did not put her Bible down even during recess, reading to whomever would listen.

📍 CHCS just completed their book fair where 110 books were donated to Connecting Hearts Ministry. These books will bless and enrich the lives of many children in Guatemala. Thank you!



Fourth-grade girl happily receives a new Bible



From One Heart to Another...

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