

Guatemala



October/November 2015

Dear Friends,

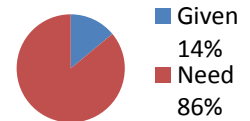
Thank you for praying for Guatemala! Much has taken place in Guatemala since our last letter. In our last letter, we reported on the massive protests because of corruption in the Government. Thankfully the protests had a positive impact, the President stepped down and is in custody pending trial. The current election coincides nicely with this governmental transition and a new candidate, a Christian, has been elected and will be in place soon.

This past month has also brought tragedy. The story here has been "Rain, Rain, and more Rain." During the rainy season there are normally landslides throughout the country. Most happen near uninhabited areas, but last month was different. On October 1, the village of El Cambray II, which is located 10 miles east of Guatemala City, experienced devastation when a massive landslide covered much of the village. At least 280 people lost their lives and dozens more are still missing. This tragedy has galvanized the people of Guatemala; thousands have participated in search efforts and even more in providing supplies and financial support to the survivors who are being relocated to a safer piece land. Dozens of new homes are being built and paid for by the government. This village is extremely poor and many lost everything in the mudslide. This disaster has opened the door to many conversations about God and allowed us to share the Good News.



NEEDS

Language School



As we continue to build relationships and learn more about the culture, we are presented with unique opportunities. Jonathan had the opportunity to accompany a group of students and teachers from Piper's school to a local fire station. Though the event had been planned for weeks, it was the amazing plan of God that allowed our group to visit only hours after the disaster in Cambray II. Many of the firefighters were out, searching for survivors, but a group had just returned to rest before heading out again. We were able to encourage the firefighters and pray for them and the rescue efforts. We also provided fresh baked goods and canned goods to pass out to those in need.

We also had the opportunity to be a part of a community event in our small complex. On October 1st, all of Guatemala celebrated Children's Day; this day is similar to Mother's Day or Father's Day, but all about the children. Our family was able to participate in a fiesta for the children of our complex. We gathered with our neighbors, met new ones and celebrated our children with games, a piñata and dinner together.

Both of these opportunities has allowed us to meet new people, build relationships and practice our Spanish. Every day we learn more about Guatemala, her people and her culture as we continue to prepare to plant our first church.

Thank you for your prayers & support
as we partner for this great missionary endeavor.

Serving together,

Jonathan & Joanna Biggett

*"For so hath the Lord
commanded us,
saying, I have set
thee to be a light of
the Gentiles, that
thou shouldest be for
salvation unto the
ends of the earth."*

~ Acts 13:47 ~