



January 2020

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Our mission is to share the love and compassion of Jesus Christ to enhance the lives of the needy and alleviate poverty around the globe.

Neutral: neu·tral /'n(y)ootrəl/

As a noun, Webster defines “neutral” as “a position of disengagement;” as an adjective, “not engaged on either side.” As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to get involved. When the lawyer asked the question in the 10th chapter of the Gospel of Luke, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus provided the parable of the Good Samaritan. In the parable, a man had been beaten by robbers and left on the side of the road. It is hard to imagine ignoring the needs of a hurting man lying in a roadside ditch. The first two travelers who passed by the wounded man were a priest and a temple worker. As the parable goes, the priest and the temple worker both took notice of the man lying in need and both choose to step away and not offer aid. The third traveler to pass by the victim was the most unlikely candidate, a reviled Samaritan, who not only stopped to aid the victim, but took care of his short-term needs as well.

Although it is impossible to respond to the constant stream of needs that media sources expose us to each day, we can respond to the needs that are placed in our path.

Global Business Solutions Institute’s sole purpose is to share the love and compassion of Jesus to enhance the lives of needy and alleviate poverty around the globe. Simply put, we place caring people like you in front of people who need your care.

You have received this newsletter because you have made the choice not to remain neutral to the needs that our Lord has placed in your path. You have donated to the work or you have traveled to meet the needs. We are partners on the path He has placed before us.

Guatemala

If you are following our growth in Guatemala, you know we started 2019 with an expansion of ministry in the Guatemalan departments (states) of Totonicapan and Solola with the strategic relocation of all our full-time Guatemalan staff. Jorge (our Central American Project Manager) and Marvelly relocated to the city of San Cristobal, located on the western boarder of Totonicapan. Felix (our first social integrator, AKA extension agent) and Juanita also relocated to the city of Momostenango, located in north-central Totonicapan. Guinder and Noemi relocated from Guatemala City to San Pedro La Laguna to pastor our church and serve the people surrounding San Pablo La Laguna.

What have the relocations of our personnel provided? A stronger relationship with the Guatemala Ministry of Agriculture (National Department of Agriculture), a successful start of our Institute extension service, and our church in San Pablo growing deeper as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Some Guatemalan highlights from 2019:

- 8 more communities equipped with greenhouses, and we refurbished 4 community greenhouses that were over 5 years old and still in production.
- Successful launch of our first Social Integrator (an extension agent with the responsibility of 4 communities building successful sustainable habits in health, nutrition and hygiene while teaching what it means to be a follower of Jesus).
- 20 communities received medical clinics (including a fully staffed Physical and Occupational clinic served by four Florida professionals!)
- 42 children received educational scholarships which allowed them to stay enrolled in their community schools
- 30 families are now raising rabbits for food and income



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Rabbits! Rabbits! Rabbits!

The Institute partners with Mississippi State University to provide their animal science students with unique experiences to enhance their education while they use their knowledge to alleviate poverty in the Western Highlands of Guatemala. Each year during their spring semester, students in MSU's studies abroad class spend their semester developing a program which is implemented during their Spring Break week in March.

During their first two years, MSU students trained Guatemala national extension agents and local small holder cattle farmers in best practices of herd production. In 2019, the students provided training for three highland communities in rabbit husbandry. What's there to learn about rabbits? The students taught on hutch construction and needs, proper nutrition and which plants to feed the rabbits, mating, kit care ("kit" is the proper name for a baby rabbit...yes, I was listening), litter care, and selecting which rabbits to mate and which ones to eat.

Each training session used two rabbits for hands-on instruction to differentiate the sex of the rabbit, how to hold and care for the rabbit, and how to harvest the rabbit. Both rabbits used in the teaching were harvested at the end of the training with no shortage of volunteers to slaughter and dress the rabbit for cooking. The crowd waited patiently as the rabbit was cooked and took part in tasting the rabbit meat. After taking part in the training and learning the nutritional value of the meat, the taste test sealed the desire for families to raise their own rabbits.

When we provided the training, families in attendance were given four meters of hardware cloth (wire mesh) to aid in building a hutch (rabbit house). If they decided not to take part in raising rabbits, the wire cloth was theirs for the keeping just for coming to the training. However, if they desired to raise rabbits, the family was required to build a proper hutch and show they had a food source to feed the rabbits. Once they had the hutch and the food source, they called Felix, our social integrator, to be approved and to be provided one male and two female rabbits to begin their own rabbit production.



When we planned the training with MSU, the hopeful goal was to find two families in each of the three communities who would begin to raise rabbits. We were really surprised when 30 families met the requirements and applied for their rabbits. 90 rabbits later, we were in full rabbit production! Mississippi State University students and faculty will be back this March to provide these hard-working adventurous families a follow-up course to reinforce their knowledge and continue their training in rabbit husbandry and reinforce their knowledge while adding one more community to the beginner's class.

Leper Colony Education - West Africa

We began 2019 with an ask for funding to rebuild a classroom building to serve our leper colony children who are provided their education through your financial gifts. The classroom was completed and furnished in the fall and more funds were recently provided for security bars for the windows, a toilet, a well, some ceiling fans and a generator! Mary, our Institute children's advocate who lives in the colony, is doing well guiding the children and the tutors who spend three days in the colony to deepen the children's education. The children are doing well, with some having the potential to pass entrance exams to enter college programs. I dream of having a college scholarship fund for these children who are excelling in their studies, these future leaders of West Africa who have been raised among the poorest in a place that actively fights against hope...a fund for college scholarships—dream with me.



Update on 2020 leper colony educational scholarships:

Many of you have asked about the opportunity to support your leper colony child's education for 2020. All is going great with the children's education and we are in the process of getting you your updated pictures and donation information for an early February send out. The sponsorship will remain unchanged at \$108 for 2020. Thank you for your faithfulness.



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Announcing a New Partnership for 2020



The **HOPE Initiative** is a partnership between the Institute and Mission Travel Association (MTA). This new partnership combines the strength of community partnership to mobilize people and resources to bring hope to hurting populations. Missionary Travel Association has long been our partners who have provided evacuation insurance for Institute teams traveling overseas, but now we are working side-by-side on various projects to expand our reach and influence. Another partner coming to the table with the HOPE initiative is the Ministry of

Agriculture Guatemala (Guatemala's Department of Agriculture), a partner who currently provides our access to Western Highland communities. Our first combined project with The Hope Initiative is with our February team from Story Point Church in Gulf Breeze, Florida. The partnership has provided 20 water filters which the team will be placing in various homes to test the acceptance to highland families. The filters will be placed in homes currently serviced by Felix and Juanita in Momostenango and Guinder and Noemi in San Pablo La Laguna. We currently have five weeks of collaborative projects with The Hope Project on the calendar for 2020.

Cambodia - Ready to Go?

We are excited to report that we made an exploratory trip to Cambodia this past November and have established a foothold to begin ministry projects. David and Sothomear, currently living in Pensacola, Florida, are the Institute's team leaders in Cambodia. Sothomear migrated to the United States as a child during the Khmer Rouge insurgency, and her extended family still lives in a rural region where they are actively involved in creating better opportunities for education and social welfare. Ministry dates for a fall trip will be announced soon.



Updates on a Couple of Our Missionaries

Sagar, India: Sagar's ministry provides theological training to pastors in India who have very little resources and cannot afford formal training. Sagar's ministry of theological training is labeled Seminary on Wheels, or SOW. Sagar's Seminary on Wheels held 12 seminars in 2019. With most seminars hosting over 100 people, one of the highlights of training is that Sagar issued 56 certificates for attendees who completed course work over a six-month period and who successfully passed their written examination.

Vicki, Central Africa: Vicki's ministry operates in a society of constant turmoil and times of violence, and which is unwelcoming to the witness of a follower of Jesus. Vicki operates a medical clinic in a school of over 1500 children. Although she is not permitted to share her story of Jesus during school hours, Vicki orchestrates after school activities which provide her more opportunities to share His love. Vicki's clinic provides aid for an average of 40 students per day with a large range of illnesses. Prior to the end of December, Vicki provided parasite medications for about 600 children.



What Are You Doing in 2020?

Want to travel with us in 2020? Let's talk! Whether you already have a team to travel with or want to join up with a team scheduled for adventure, 2020 is your year! Email me at tdavis@gbis.com, or call me at 850-944-7579.

Thank you for allowing us to partner with you in your ministry of caring for hurting people around the globe. As most of you know, our team is 100% dependent on your financial support to maintain the work of ministry that you have created by your obedience to His call. We look forward to working alongside you in 2020.


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