



GLOBAL SHORE

OPPORTUNITIES

"If they weren't here..."

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Six students are graduating this year from our *Carreras* school, from our two-year Graphic Design career program. These are the first students to graduate from our school, so this is the first opportunity we have to see our vision truly fulfilled, completed. We spoke to Jasmin, the director of our *carrera* school, and asked her about her experience of the year and what this graduation means for our school.

"This graduation is a great achievement! We are incredibly happy for these first students but sad at the same time because they're leaving. We give thanks to God because He has been faithful to help us with all that was needed through the years they were in our care.

"There are many students who, if they weren't here, wouldn't be in a school at all. When we went on a field trip to Guatemala City with the students from Accounting and Graphic Design, a professional in the field of education congratulated the students and our organization because on average, out of a hundred youth, only about five continue to study at the *carrera* level. Instead, they drop out of school altogether. We want to continue our work with our students, and I know that with God we can.

"I believe that a difference is being made in the lives of the majority of our students, both in their relationship with God and also in their academic studies. There are many students here who, if they weren't here, would already be parents. It's true. There are others who, if they weren't here, would be stuck in vices like alcoholism or drug addiction. But God has been faithful: they're here and not there.

"I hope that Global Shore can continue its work because, although they are quite a few years away from *carreras*, I pray that my children can finish their *carrera* studies here too.

"I want to thank, from the bottom of my heart, all those who always financially support our school—from the primary students through to *carrera*—and I want them to know that what they're sowing God will multiply. I pray that the seed that they sow would flourish and multiply in their lives."

"There are many parents whose hope is here. We have a mother with six sons studying in our school: two who will graduate, Lord-willing, next year, and the others in primary school and *basicos*.

We are so proud of our first *Carrera* graduates and for Jasmin's incredible leadership over the school. Hear from a couple of our graduating students below:

Hugo:

"I wish I could have been here when I was really small. In my other schools I was bullied and I wasn't close to God, but I've never been bullied here. This is a good place."



Damaris:

"It makes me really happy and content to have a sponsor because I don't just have my family and friends who care about me and my education, but I have a friend in Canada, too, who cares about me and wants me to succeed."



Traje Típico: A Complex Heritage

How Guatemala celebrates, remembering its past of oppression

On September 15th, Guatemala celebrated its 196th anniversary of independence—and our school joined in! With two parades, a special assembly and a school-wide breakfast (and a day to recuperate afterwards), our students performed their civic duties with aplomb.

During the first parade, our youngest students were asked to dress in *traje típico* (“TRA-hey TEEP-ee-co”), traditional Mayan clothing, as part of the civic celebration. This *típico* clothing varies from region to region, so some of our students are dressed in the fashion of their parents’ region, but most are dressed in clothing typical of the Kaqchikel, the Mayan people group most represented in our area.

and if an indigenous person’s clothing immediately identified them as a worker from Panajachel, Quetzaltenango or Escuintla, it was quickly impossible for indigenous people to flee from the oppression of the conquistadors.

“Guatemala is like this: everywhere you look there is beauty and great difficulty, national pride mixed with loss.”

Almost five centuries after the Spanish conquest, *traje típico* is celebrated as a unique and beautiful part of Guatemalan culture. Guatemala is like this: everywhere you look there is beauty and great difficulty, national pride mixed with loss.

Traje típico is one of the things that sets Guatemala apart, but woven into its history is the subjugation of the indigenous people of Guatemala, and almost five hundred years of suffering, punctuated with natural disasters and violence.

In modern-day Guatemala, the use of *traje típico* diminishes. There are families like Elena’s, who hold fast to their traditions and teach their children the K’iche’ language, but in a tourism-focused city like Antigua, few people on the streets wear *traje típico*—unless you wander into the local market, where almost every vendor is dressed in traditional clothing.

Elena, one of our host moms in Tizate, is a proud K’iche’ (Quiché), as is her husband. When groups come to their home for lunch, they often find themselves up a precarious staircase behind the dining room, dressed in elaborate, hand-made, brightly-coloured skirts and blouses, hearing her husband speak about the pride of the indigenous people. The *traje típico* of Guatemala is unique: each area of the country has different patterns, colours and dress, and this is celebrated as part of Guatemala’s unique heritage.

Before the Spanish conquest of Guatemala began in the 1520s, there’s no historical record of these vibrant and diverse clothes, but as the conquistadors established their hold in the areas that would become Guatemala, the *traje típico* slowly emerged as a measure of control. The colonized indigenous people were essentially enslaved, restricted to a particular town or region,



Carlos Castañeda, a local agronomist who has studied Guatemalan history at length, suggests this shift has several causes. The oppression and difficulties of the indigenous people leads to a history that some would like to forget, while it's an integral part of Guatemala's story. For instance, kids will often say to each other "*no seas indio*"—literally, "don't be Indian", but figuratively, "don't be stubborn or foolish". In Guatemala, this is neither racial slur nor compliment: it's simply what you say.

Castañeda also suggested that *traje típico* is less common because of cheap used clothing that comes from America and is sold in *pacas* (markets) throughout Guatemala. The influence of North American culture is growing, too, as legal and illegal immigrants in the United States and other nations remain connected to their families, sending money and other goods back home. "Even in the smallest village in Guatemala you can find a guy dressed like a New York gangster," Castañeda added.

"Our prayer is that, with eyes wide open to what has happened, our students will move forward, establishing the Kingdom of God wherever they go."

For our students who march in *traje típico*, we hope our celebrations will educate them about the past of their country while maintaining our school vision. During our assembly, students read Scripture and made declarations over their country, and we prayed as a school for God's blessing to be on Guatemala. Our prayer is that, with eyes wide open to what has happened, our students will move forward, establishing the Kingdom of God wherever they go.

from the Instagram account of our Guatemalan Executive Director, Julianna; her son Jaden (pictured below) is in our JK class



Be a part of building Guatemala's future.

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Simply fill out the included pledge card and mail it along with your cheque to our office using the provided envelope.

Give Online

www.globalshore.org/one-time-gift

Carerra Salon Construction

We are extremely excited to announce that construction of the *Carrera* school has started again and is moving towards completion! While we are still in great need for our ongoing projects, we received an allocated donation in August towards the completion of the *Carrera* building salon. This room will provide space for *Carrera* devotionals, assemblies, and presentations.

On August 29th, the schools' construction crew started hauling materials back up to the second story and setting up their work areas. We are hopeful and everyone is working hard in order to have the salon completed for the beginning of the school year in 2018. Please join us as we pray for our *Carrera* students and the completion of their school building.

Serve in Guatemala for a Year!

Are you or someone you know interested in serving God in another cultural context for a year? We are in need of six people to fill positions within our English department for the 2018 school year that starts in January. Whether you are drawn to teaching younger kids or love working with high school students, there's a position for you!

As we wrap up this 2017 school year we asked Mikhaila Bergen, one of our English teachers, to share about her experience these past twelve months: *"My kids are so, so incredible. I see them and I know that God is raising up this country and that He is taking these children that are coming from homes where they might not be loved or where their parents might have addictions and they get to come here and they're told that they're so much more than that and that there's a life beyond what they've grown up in or what their culture has told them they're going to be. It's a place where the school is raising up leaders to raise up the country and it's an honour that I get to be here and a part of it for a year."*

Visit globalshore.org/teach-english for more information or to apply!

Summer Program Recap & Exciting News for Next Year!



At the end of August, our 5 participants in this year's Summer Program came back to Ontario to spend a few days together debriefing and sharing about their four months of farm work and service abroad.

Torreana, a team member that has decided to apply for our English department for next year, shared: *"I feel like I still have so much more to learn from the Guatemalans about our God and would love to come back again. I have learned that the more time you spend in God's presence, the more joy God will place in your heart, even if it's working with asparagus, clearing piles of construction rubble, or struggling over learning Spanish!"*

We are excited to announce that for our 15th year of running this program we will be collaborating with MB Mission to provide discipleship and additional international service opportunities. Stay tuned for more information which will be provided on our website. The application deadline is February 1st, 2018, and you can apply at globalshore.org/summer-program

Upcoming Annual Trip (January 10-22, 2018)

If you would love to serve overseas, but don't have a connection with a church or school that is working with us, this is your opportunity to join us in Guatemala on a short-term trip! Our annual January trip often has participants of all ages with unique skillsets from all over the country. The program includes learning about Guatemalan culture, school involvement, participation in our construction projects, children's ministry, and some local tourism..

For more information or to apply, visit globalshore.org/short-term-teams

Cost: \$1900/ person (tax deductible, flight included)

