



# GLOBALSHORE

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Our First Valedictorian

In October of last year, we celebrated and sent out the first graduates from our school: our six students from second year Graphic Design. This is the first chance we've had to see the vision fulfilled in the lives of our students, and our prayer is that the seeds that were planted in their lives would continue to take root as they apply what they've learned here—academically and spiritually. Jorge was chosen as the valedictorian for this small class; in the words of our Guatemalan director, Julianna, he “embodies the vision of our school and what we hope to accomplish in the lives of our students.”



For Jorge, it was a long journey from when he first walked into CCAF five years ago to the graduation stage. Although born into a Christian family, Jorge had turned away from God. When he came to our school, though, he felt something different.

“Here you can feel the presence of God,” Jorge told us. “This is what impacted me when I came here. I knew about God, but I didn’t truly know Him. When I came here, I changed.”

*(story continued inside)*

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### A Message From Our Guatemalan Director

“At the start of the year, the Lord spoke the word ‘focus’ to me. This is the first year we have students from Junior Kindergarten all the way to Grade 12. By the time you read this newsletter, our secondary school building will be complete and we’ll be in our second month of school. It’s time for us to fully focus on our students, to not miss a single opportunity. The Lord has entrusted us with our students, and distractions can take the focus away from what the Lord wants to do.”

“If we lose our focus, we can end up just doing our jobs and wasting a whole day that could have been spent speaking the Lord into the lives of our students. We don’t want to miss any opportunities: God has entrusted us with these students and we have a responsibility towards them.”

“Pray for strength for us, and eyes to see what God expects of us each day. Starting at 7:00 AM, as a staff, we pray for our students for ten minutes, putting them before us, focusing on what the Lord would have for them, speaking into their lives even before they walk through the gate. We’re choosing to focus on the ministry God has given us, and are expecting great things for 2018.” - Julianna Konrad de Pelaez







## Welcoming Our New Staff!

### Above:

*Our newly completed Carreras devotional room!*

### Below Left:

*Our TEFL 2018 staff members Torreana, Linnea, Max, Beth, and Donya*

### Below Right:

*New Guatemalan staff members Gladys (Grade 10 Graphic Design) and Marielos (Carrera school secretary)*

We're welcoming four new TEFL teachers and two new Guatemalan staff this year! They each shared a bit with us about their new position here and their passion for their work. Gladys shared that "we're not just intellectually guiding our students, but also guiding them in the word and love of God. It's more holistic: we're not just working with academics, but also sharing the love God has for every one of our students." Get to know her and the rest of our new staff by reading our blog post:

[globalshore.org/2018-new-staff](http://globalshore.org/2018-new-staff)





(... story continued from front page)

Samuel, one of our *Basicos* teachers, invited Jorge to a small group—Jorge didn't know what it was—and he came. Slowly, he said, "I started to behave differently, and this is what impacted my life more than anything else: I met God." While we recognize that each student needs God, Samuel didn't realize the significance of that invitation to Jorge.



When sharing his valedictorian speech, Jorge shared with his classmates and everyone present about that time in his life: "I was on a path that wouldn't have been good for me.... Before coming to this school, I know that I was making decisions that led to death.... Thanks to the plans He has for me, I know I've been saved from a life as an alcoholic, a drug addict."

When he tried to explain what was different about this school, this place, Jorge kept coming back to devotionals, and what it feels like to be at the school. "In reality, being here isn't like being in other places. It's something more than just studying.... I know that God is here and we feel His presence every morning in the school. God has changed many areas of my life."

**"We shouldn't just take what we learned here and keep it, but we should give it away to others wherever we go."**

As he finished his speech, Jorge turned to his fellow graduates and encouraged them to apply the things they learned: "When you go out of this place, don't just hold on to what you learned, but give your lives to God. Every day you're confronted with the idea that you can live your life however you want to, but I want to say to you that you should give your lives to Him, for He has great plans for your life."

Reflecting on the graduating class and Jorge, Julianna shared that "[a]s students leave our school where we focus on the Lord, where there are people to support them, they go out into a secular workplace and realize the reality of how people live. Jorge knows firmly who he is in Christ, and knows that he wants to serve God with his life. And that's it. That's what we want to do."

He showed this security in his speech: "I want to be different from other young people out there. My goal is to be able to follow God and show other people my age that they don't have to live their lives like everyone else; they can live their lives for Him. And we can give our youth to God because he has our future in His hands."

When Jorge was beginning his final practicum, starting the next stage of his life, sent out from our ministry, he said: "At this point I feel happy, not sad, because while I love the environment and everything here at the school, I believe that it's time to leave and take responsibility. We shouldn't just take what we learned here and keep it, but we should give it away to others wherever we go. We can be an example wherever we are and I pray that God will always be at the center of our hearts."





# 2017 STATS

379 ATTENDED VBS 

319 STUDENTS IN SCHOOL 

120 VOLUNTEERS 

31 LOCAL STAFF MEMBERS 

6 GRADUATES 

## 2018 Summer Program

It's been 15 years since our first Summer Program! This 4-month opportunity allows young adults to experience discipleship, community and international service while still working for part of the summer in rural Ontario. We're very excited to announce that this year MB Mission will be partnering with us to provide discipleship and training during the work term. Our application deadline has been extended to February 28th, so spread the word to anyone who might be interested in this experience!

[globalshore.org/summer-program](http://globalshore.org/summer-program)

## Upcoming Trips

Are you interested in serving God in another cultural context for a couple of weeks? We have lots of calendar space available in 2018 for you to come visit us! Whether it's by yourself, with a couple of friends, or a large group, visit our website to read more about what we offer and to book your trip.

Applications for our annual July family trip and October Celebration trip are also now open for those interested in joining one of our general teams. Read more about them at this link:

[globalshore.org/short-term-teams](http://globalshore.org/short-term-teams)

Yes, I would like to partner with Global Shore in empowering and educating the youth of Guatemala

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### Contact Information

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