

SPRING 2019 | ISSUE 31



# 2018 STATS 489 children at VBS ❖ 320 students in school ❖ 77 international volunteers ❖ 35 local staff members ❖ 35 graduates ❖



"Don't live somebody else's life. Live the life that God has given you, because every moment is short. Tomorrow, when we reach our goals, we can look back and see this school prepared us, not just academically, but spiritually." –José David, Valedictorian, Class of 2018



### NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE 2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Ever since we've offered middle school classes, we've had waiting lists for Grades 7 & 8. This year, we've opened up additional classrooms at these levels for this need. We're planning to open a Grade 9 classroom next year, and praying that these new students will see the value of their education and remain with us through high school.

We've opened a stationary supply store at our school! With competitive prices, parents can purchase supplies when they enroll their students, and students can get what they need for projects right away. We're experimenting and looking for ways that our schools can become more self-sustaining.

After several years of watching our high school students lug typewriters up the hill three times a week, we've opened up a typing lab. Students can use school typewriters for practice and this eases the financial need for students to purchase their own typewriters.

## A Season of Restoration

FROM JULIANNA KONRAD DE PELAEZ, OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN GUATEMALA

I still remember when we first learned this Christian Education method from Impact Ministries. Karina, our principal, said: "I've worked in Christian education for eight years... but if we can fulfill this vision? It's going to transform Guatemala."

Our vision is that our students would form a relationship with the Lord, and that everything they do would come out of that. We want them to succeed academically, but we want to build a foundation of love so they can walk out the calling the Lord has for them. It requires sacrifice and living differently from those around them, and they can't do that without a relationship with the Lord.

It starts small: if our young students learn to clean up and listen to their teacher because it's an act of worship, because it pleases the Lord, when they grow up they're going to be the best employees there are. They're going to work as if they're doing it for the Lord, and He can trust them with a greater calling.

The vision that the Lord has given us isn't a formula, though. We can get into a routine. Schools need routine. They're built on routine. The Spirit, though, isn't always interested in routine. So, we need to listen to the Lord, hearing how we should implement the vision that day, that month, that year. We can't afford to coast through a day.

We know that it's not because of us that the vision is being fulfilled. We're dependent on the Lord. If we just get into a routine and rely on our own resources and abilities, we're not that great. We can't do it on our own.



"Sometimes we need to be called back to our purpose and our vision. This isn't just any job. This is the Lord's work."

The Lord spoke to us at the end of last year and said that this would be a year of changes, that he was restoring a number of things in our ministry. There are big things, like unity and relationships, but there are small things, too, like taking care of our facilities. He

said that this is His building, where He dwells, so we want to take care of it.

During the start of our year, I challenged our staff to recommit to our vision, to their responsibilities. This isn't just any job. This is the Lord's work, and we need to be alert. We need to be committed to the vision of the Lord bringing restoration in the lives of these students. There are other jobs out there, but this is a calling.

This vision is what we've committed to. I know it's a lot to ask, but we need to get this right. Several staff members have already told me that the atmosphere feels different this year, now that we've recommitted to the vision, and I would say that the Lord is walking us through that restoration process.

If you pray for us this year, pray that we would be faithful in this season of restoration. Pray that we would be able to see clearly what the Lord is calling us to. We don't want to lose focus. Pray that we would be unified, too, because that's the key to it all: that we would have unity through the Spirit. //

Since 2004, Julianna has lived in Guatemala and led the work of Global Shore Opportunities on the ground, while also drinking good coffee, eating good food, riding horses and enjoying life with her husband, Jacobo, and their children.



#### **SUMMER PROGRAM 2019**

Applications are now open for our 2019 Summer Program! Post-secondary students and young adults who are looking for a challenging discipleship program are welcome to apply for this four-month experience which includes two months of paid work, community, intentional discipleship and a six-week service opportunity in Guatemala. At the end of the summer last year, Lizzy said, "There's a lot that people can benefit from doing this. I think it's a great way to make the most of your summer by working, making money and then going on an incredible journey with a team of incredible people." To learn more and apply, visit: globalshore.org/summer-program.

### **REFLECTING AND GRATEFUL**

Looking back at 2018, we're thankful to God for what he's done in our ministry. With 35 graduates, we completed our first year as a K-12 school. We've seen our vision fulfilled in the lives of some of our students, and we're longing to see more lives transformed, more students prepared for the calling the Lord has on their lives. We know that it's thanks to the consistent, faithful partnership of our friends in Canada that we're able to continue this work.

We're so grateful for your significant part in what we're doing — we couldn't do this without you! Thank you so much.





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