

# NEWSLETTER Serving the Underserved

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San Pedro "municipal water tank," where locals wash their clothes. Soon to be repaired through Plant Today donations.



Fire rescue training on May trip. Training included volunteers who cover San Pedro and 6 other municipalities (approximately 35,000 people), plus firefighters from the Antigua department.

# From Mike - 2009 Year in Review

We serve a holy, righteous, omnipotent, and omnipresent God! My vocabulary is so limited when trying to describe the thanksgiving, honor, and praise that I feel in my heart for what God has chosen to do through you, the partners of Plant Today. In this final newsletter of 2009, I want to list for you what has been accomplished in just this last year. I feel so blessed to be a part of this work and pray that you do too as we reflect together on God's greatness.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

# San Pedro Las Huertas, Guatemala Outreach:

- 1. Initial exploratory trip; water projects planning trip; fire rescue training preparation trip.
- 2. First missions trip, with 16 partners participating.
- 3. 10 speed bumps installed, part by missions team and part by locals.
- 4. Fire training provided to more than 30 firefighters.
- 5. Purchase of Focometer, lenses, and frames for outreach eyeglass clinics.
- 6. Missions trip eyeglass clinic enabled 113 people to see.
- 7. Week-long medical outreach, in partnership with ICI, to 571 people, with 41 salvations.
- 8. Water fountain repairs completed.
- 9. Water purification system began.
- 10. Sunday school supplies, tables, and chairs provided for the children at Pastor Israel's church.
- 11. More than 10,000 pounds of clothing collected and distributed.
- 12. Ongoing support for 8 area families, with food and clothing each month.
- 13. Uniting of 6 evangelical churches to reach the ghetto area of the town.
- 14. Support of the county government as to our endeavors in the area.
- 15. Ghetto area outreach started—more than 200 people reached the first month and at least 18 salvations.
- 16. Church plant began in ghetto area.
- 17. Donation of 250 MP3 players by In Touch Ministries, with 36 distributed to new believers.

# Casa Samuel Orphanage, Guatemala:

- 1. Funds donated for toddler's [Tina] open-heart surgery.
- 2. 20 school book-bags donated.
- 3. Art supplies donated.



Student rider Jonathan trots on Dream while John (his dad), Mike, and Mike B assist.



Tiny, from the orphanage, who received open heart surgery at the age of 14 months through Plant Today's generous partners.



Missions trip workers Mike, Linda, Sean, and Pete work on speed bumps during the missions trip.

# **Riding Outreach:**

- 1. Extended riding program—serving 14 riders on weekdays and providing 3 horses for another Saturday program.
- 2. 3-horse trailer donated through two gifts, one cash and one in-kind.
- 3. 2 horses added to program—one donated and one adopted.
- 4. 3 saddles donated.
- 5. 4 riding helmets donated.
- 6. 3 good, committed workers regularly volunteering their time.

### Administrative:

- 1. Website development provided by Shirley Stone of StoneGraphics without charge.
- 2. Retired missionary to Latin America, Sylvia Walker, to donate her time and skills after the new year.
- 3. Permission granted by EMI Christian Music Group for us to use two songs on the website without paying royalties.

There is a story behind each of these accomplishments, but I hesitate to begin telling even one because there is not enough space to contain what God has done this year. I think a few pictures will better capture this year of God's work through us. Without you, this work would have been impossible. But, all things are possible through God, who so mightily enables us. [I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil. 4:13] Thank you for hearing God's call and responding so graciously to the needs of others through Plant Today.

Mike



A young man shows his delight with the clothing he received at the first ghetto outreach.



Student rider Jonathan gets his helmet adjusted by Mike before riding for the first time.





Pastor Byron shows off one of the finished fountains. These are used by approximately 90% of the locals because they have no running water in their homes.

All of the fountains are now completed.



Mike and Pete meet with the mayor of Antigua, who controls the surrounding areas. His support is essential for any projects in San Pedro.



Plant Today workers play American football with local children while the eyeglass clinic takes place on the porch of the San Pedro city hall. The clinic had to move outside because inside was too dark.

### **Contact Us:**

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A little girl from the ghetto with her clothing donated by Plant Today partners.



Leaders from the 6 area evangelical churches come together to meet with Plant Today leaders to discuss how to reach the ghetto community.





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