



From the desk of
Mike Medley

April 8, 2014

To All the Plant Today Partners –

Since last week's email went out telling of the Guatemala trip, I have received many comments from you as to the impact you experienced from the photos and information it contained. This email brings you the insights of one of our teenage team members, Megan, as to her experiences on the trip. However, let me first give you some results from the trip that were not included in the previous email.

- We had more than 300 adults, children, and youth raise their hands and pray the sinner's prayer!
- More than 120 were given haircut.
- More than 150 received eye exams, with glasses being given as needed.
- More than 400 received toothbrushes and toothpaste.
- Clothing was distributed in both locations to at least 500 people.
- More than 220 children received shoes.
- And dozens of families received basic food staples.

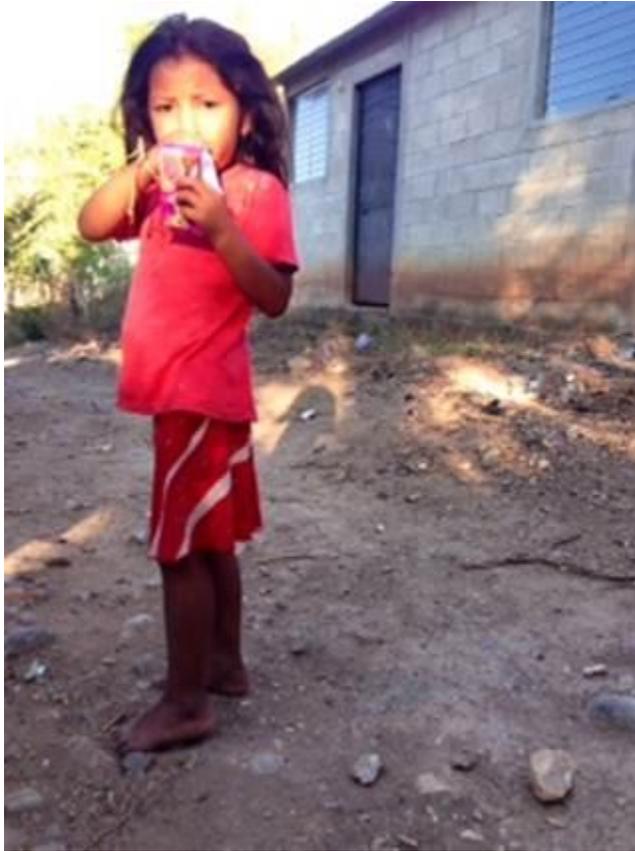
All the glory goes to God for His favor and provision!

Isaiah 61:1-2 says, "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, because the Lord has appointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to announce that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies."

Approximately a month before the trip one of the team members sent me that verse. She had been having second thoughts about going on this trip due to doubts about her value in serving and some circumstances in her life. Then, through a couple of different means, this verse was brought to her as a confirmation she was to go on the trip.



This verse became our “mission verse” for the trip. You will see aspects of this verse in Megan’s writing and, if you are like me, you will not be able to hold back tears when reading her thoughts. Enjoy!



FROM MEGAN:

“Guatemala 2014: the best week of my life! A week of displaying the love of Jesus Christ to the least of these. I never expected that one week would have such a tremendous impact on my life. I’ve been a Christian for 12 years and nothing else has strengthened my relationship with Christ more than the week I spent in Guatemala.”

“Throughout the week of visiting different ‘settlements’ or ‘villages,’ if you will, I found that many of the girls my age have already had children.” [Note from Mike: the girls Megan is referring to are having babies when they are as young as 12 or 13 years old.] “This came as a complete shock to me! Living here in the US, women have different rights and expectations to live up to. Women here are to build a future for themselves, which involves going to college, a career, and

then finding a man to have a family with. I found that in Guatemala these women were not given the chance of a future.' They are just girls who are having children. Forced to take care of their children, they do not get the opportunity to a basic education." [Below is a photo of Megan with one of these babies.]



"God has really placed a burden on my heart for these girls/women. I want them to have a chance at a future and education. To have an opportunity just like I do. I found that the girls my age [in the United States] don't take advantage of the opportunity of an education or a future that is given to them. They throw all this away for drugs, alcohol. To be 'cool.' To fit in. There are girls out there, past Guatemala, who wish for nothing but an education or the opportunity to be someone. I believe God placed this burden on my heart for a reason. I may only be 17, but I know My God is a Big God who is capable of anything and in Him I can do all things!"



Megan was a wonderful asset on this trip, giving “makeovers” to some of the teenage girls (in photo at left), playing with the children, and participating in prayer groups. She is a great example of God’s ability to use all of us in very specific areas for His kingdom.

Thank you, all of our partners, for making it possible for Plant Today to touch lives!

In Him,

Mike