



From the desk of
Mike Medley

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To All of Our Partners –

In this third email detailing the March Guatemala trip, you will hear from Hope, one of the teenagers who went with us. But there are two things I want to tell you about. First, we were able to give a little gift to each person we came into contact with. A dear friend gave us bracelets that she has used for years to share about the love of Jesus: leather “salvation bracelets” with five colored beads. The yellow bead is for God; black is for the sin of man; red is for the blood Jesus shed for our sins; white is for the clean heart we have through Jesus’ redemptive sacrifice; and the green bead is for God’s eternal love.

Unlike in the United States, in Guatemala we were able to go into school classrooms and share the salvation message and bracelets with the children. We also gave them to all who came to the daily activities – and more than 600 people heard the message of Christ through these simple bracelets! The photos below show the school children receiving their bracelets.



The second thing I wanted to tell about was how we distributed over 200 pairs of shoes, since we are limited by weight and luggage we can carry into the country. A donor gave \$500 specifically for shoes and, through some networking by one of our volunteers, the owner of a Guatemalan shoe store was able to supply us with 216 shoes for that amount! The team had returned to the States by the time of the shoes were distributed, but the photos below speak for themselves as to the success of this gift!



And now a view of the missions trip through Hope's eyes—

“Guatemala was definitely a blessing. I'd been wanting to go on this trip for years but the dates never lined up with my school schedule. I was sitting in math class about a month before the trip and I got a text from my mother saying, ‘How about Guatemala for spring break?’ I was immediately in tears. I knew at that moment that I had been called to do something great, something special. The dates lined up perfectly with my spring break and I got my passport in two weeks! The days leading up to the trip flew by. Before I knew it, I was on my way!

“There were complications getting to Florida [from Kansas] but I made it! I was faced with many small tests, but nothing could have stopped me from sharing the Word with the people of Guatemala. The trip showed me the power of a team on a spiritual level. I am involved in many activities and sports teams so I know that a team is stronger than an individual, but I hadn't really taken the time to evaluate the strength of a spiritual team. We know how strong prayer groups/chains are and how strong the body of Christ is.

“The team that God brought together for this past trip was INCREDIBLE. Starting out the only two people in our group I knew were my Uncle Mike and Grandma Sonda, but by the end of the week I could honestly say I LOVED every individual on our team and every one of the lives we touched. The connections that were made within our group and between our group and the people we visited were so powerful that only God's hand could have made them.”

(Below, Hope swings some of the school girls and visits with one of the local teenagers and a puppy!)



“On our last night in Guatemala, we all gathered together to reflect on our trip and the events of the past week. The previous night, before dinner, we had a conversation about the pressures Megan and I are faced with every day and how we uphold our faith on a daily basis.

“Uncle Mike brought that up on the last night with everyone and we had a group prayer specifically for Megan and me. Just knowing that so many people love and care about us, even people we’d known for four or five days, really touched me. Megan and I were in the center of the circle and most everyone was crying. The power, love, and support from those moments in that prayer will stay with me for the rest of my life. I will always be bonded to our group.

“Thank you to everyone involved in this trip and the people back home that make this possible. I’m a new woman who can’t wait to go back.”

-Hope

(In the photo on the next page, Hope is in the right corner, playing volleyball with team member Pete and local children.)



Hope explained the “team effect” much better than I could. If you would like to be a part of the next team, please let me know – plans are in the works for a trip in the fall.

In the next email I will be updating you on the first house being built, for the elderly couple I introduced you to in the first email. The news and photos of its progress is exciting, and the elderly man, who is 86 years old, is helping to build it!

Partnering in His Service,

Mike