

Stove Builders of Guatemala Newsletter

Issue #3 Spring 2016

Thanks

Stove Builders of Guatemala Board chair, Steve Laycock reports, "Giving Tuesday" (12/1/15) results are in with a total of \$4,935. A total of \$3,385 came from individuals and \$1,550 was matched by the UMC's General Board of Global Ministries..

This is our second year to participate and we are grateful to everyone a who participated!

750+

Stove Builders of Guatemala have now built over 750 stoves! Shown here is President (Bishop) Tomas Riquiac Ixtan of the Methodist Church of Guatemala praying with the Mayan family upon completion of their stove.



Update: We are honored to be part of the UMC's Advance program as a funding channel for Stove Builders of Guatemala (SBG). We have submitted our application to The Advance for the next four years. SBG is excited to announce that we received \$9,618 through The Advance in March. Many thanks to every person and every church who participate in giving through The Advance!



How to give: Go to the United Methodist Global Ministries web site www.umcmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/3022040 . This link takes you directly to our project; when you're there, just click on "**GIVE NOW!**"



Thanks to Bonnie Laycock for leading 10 work teams to Guatemala, for working with church leaders in Guatemala, for making every team member feel special, and always keeping the stove project goals top priority for us all!

Contact Bonnie if you would like to participate in a work team: 316-207-0883
bonnielaycock23@gmail.com

Next Work Team Dates

Nov 12-20, 2015

Jan 21-29, 2017

others TBD

NEW MISSIONARY TO GUATEMALA

The General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church has assigned Calley Piland as a new missionary to support the mission efforts of the Methodist Church of Guatemala. One of her responsibilities is to coordinate with The Advance projects in Guatemala. She has proven very valuable with Stove Builders of Guatemala when it comes to communicating with the Methodist Church of Guatemala and supplying information to SBG.

Please read Calley's answers to our questions.

Q. What is the Vision of Mission for the Methodist Church of Guatemala?

A: 'Our motto is 'Relationship IS Mission'! We believe that true mission comes from deep, mutual, continuously-growing relationships. Our vision is encompassed in our Foundations of Mission, which are:

- To be the living testimony of the love of God
- To share the word of God for healthy hearts, minds, bodies, and souls
- To help people live a life of dignity
- To provide opportunities to develop and grow relationships of mutuality."



Q. How does Stove Builders of Guatemala fit into this plan? **A:** "Each facet of the SBG program speaks to each pillar in the Methodist Church of Guatemala's Foundations of Mission. Eliminating the need to cook on open, ground-fires, having families contribute \$20 towards the cost of the stove and also participating in the building of their own stove, and providing local master stove builders a sustainable source of income by working with the families to ensure stoves are built properly the first time so that they will last – all of these elements share the love of God, provide holistic health, help all involved to live lives of dignity, and create opportunities to develop and grow relationships of mutuality."

Q. If you had one thing to say to the people in the U.S. who have donated money to SBG, what would that be?

A: "I can only humbly say thank you. Thank you for improving the lives of your brothers and sisters in Guatemala. Sharing the love of God through this ministry provides hope, dignity, and opportunity for these amazing people and all are blessed who choose to be a part of it."

The Stove Builders of Guatemala Newsletter continues

After



Before

Work Teams Share God's Love in Guatemala

“This year I was fortunate to be one of 9 people to go on a mission in Guatemala to build stoves. These much-needed stoves allow families to do their cooking in a safer environment with far less fuel, smoke and risk of burns to children. I got to see first-hand that this program is much more of a “helping hand” than a “handout.” Our job was to assist the stove builders, who are local men that have been trained to build this stove and earn wages for doing so. Our mission was to be the hands and feet of Christ and I pray that we accomplished that mission.”

Excerpts from an article by Scott Bryant, Lakin UMC, Lakin, KS

“Being a farmer and helping farmers was special to me. They work very hard and I was able to help them make their life a little easier. The ground is farmed by hand with a wide hoe. The crops we saw were corn, onions, potatoes, carrots, squash, tomatoes and cabbage. The soil was rich and dark as the area where we worked is surrounded by volcanoes. Another important tool is the machete. It is used for many different things from trimming trees and crops to cutting concrete blocks and making holes in tin roofs as part of the stove building process. The people didn't seem to have much, but they had strong family ties. The children were shown love, and after all, does anything else matter?”



Excerpts from an article by Gary Morgan, Lakin UMC, Lakin Ks



“We have spent a week building stoves here in Guatemala. I saw Romelda, Elena, Deloris, their young children and families and others we met as we worked building stoves, and little boys playing in the dirt with little toy trucks. I recall seeing a lady building a fire and then using her hands to make tortillas, something she does every day, 3 times a day, to feed her family if there is enough corn meal. The beauty of the country is not mirrored in the harsh poverty that most Mayan people here endure. I was reminded that we are all God's children. Although we might be separated by culture, language, history, economic conditions, and very many miles apart, we are all so

very much alike.”

Excerpts from an article written by David M. Weaver, FUMC Richardson, TX

(to read more of David's story go to our web site stovebuildersofguatemala.org)

The Stove Builders of Guatemala Newsletter continues

Education Classes

...continued from the winter newsletter

The education component of the Stove Builders program is held for women who will receive the stoves.

In the dental class, we had a giant set of teeth and a giant tooth brush to demonstrate how to brush teeth. The villagers drink soft drinks and have candy available, so there is a lot of tooth decay. Lack of dental care and good nutrition also contributes to poor dental health. This class emphasized the importance of brushing teeth every day. We showed the importance of selecting and preparing local grown foods. The women who attended the classes were interested in learning how to feed their families more healthily.

Written by Jean Baumann, FUMC Richardson, TX



Pictured with the giant teeth and tooth brush are (l to r) Cindy Thomas, Miguel Tzul and the local Tz'utujil language translator.

Stove Builders of Guatemala
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