

# Stove Builders of Guatemala Newsletter

Spring 2019

Lourdes Ramirez (Lulu), a native of Puebla, Mexico, has been assigned as a missionary to Guatemala by the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) of the United Methodist Church. Recently the Methodist Church of Guatemala appointed Lulu to the position of VIM coordinator for work teams going into Guatemala.



"We are thrilled to have Lulu and look forward to a strengthened working relationship between SBG and the Methodist Church of Guatemala," stated Bonnie Laycock, a member of the SBG Advisory Board who has now met with and worked with Lulu on several occasions.

Lulu's educational background (multiple degrees and certifications in business administration and finance) as well as her faith and love for the Guatemalan people are big assets in her new position. Working with her is her husband, Rich and her son Edwin. These three individuals have embraced SBG and the principles on which it was founded. This has truly been an answered prayer from God and SBG welcomes Lulu. All who travel to Guatemala with SBG will truly enjoy getting-to-know Lulu and appreciate all she does to help the US teams have a fulfilling and worthwhile mission trip to Guatemala.



Miguel Tzul  
pictured above

Stove Builders of Guatemala recently acknowledged and thanked Miguel Tzul, long time Guatemalan supporter of SBG, with a plaque expressing appreciation for all he has done to continue the work of SBG in the Lake Atitlan area even when teams are not there. This program owes a lot to Miguel for all he has done to act as our "boots on the ground" including training additional stove builders and ordering supplies for the stoves. In 2018, Miguel oversaw the building of 240 stoves built by our local stove builders when our teams were not present.



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[www.stovebuildersofguatgemala.com](http://www.stovebuildersofguatgemala.com)

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Starting with the very first SBG stove built, Dave Schreiner has been a presence on almost every team going to Guatemala in the last 8 years. In January of this year, while in Guatemala, Dave celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Between Dave's wife, Roxan, and team leader, Bonnie Laycock, special surprises were planned throughout the week. Money was donated by his wife, Roxann, for a stove to be built in honor of Dave.

L to R: Diego, Fernando, Josue, Dave, Felipe, Pedro

At the end of the week a special surprise celebration was held for Dave at Pinquino's restaurant in Panajachel. Decorations were put out and the table set with enough room for all team members and all master stove builders who could attend. Special guests included SBG's very first master stove builders Josue and Felipe.

Dave's attitude, compassion, and flexibility have always been an asset to the teams he has been on. He truly embraces the idea of missions as a relationship. At 80 his travels and work with SBG has not stopped. He has signed up to go to Guatemala in November on yet another team. We hope he continues to work with and for SBG for many more years to come. Happy Birthday, Dave and thank you for

## Upcoming Work Teams need you!

Multiple churches- Nov. 16-25, 2019..... team is full

Trinity UMC in Arlington, TX is going the first week of December 2019....team is full.

Augusta UMC in Augusta, Kansas is going Dec. 28-Jan. 5, 2019  
- contact Beth Wallingford - [bethw@augustaumc.com](mailto:bethw@augustaumc.com)

TBD No date set yet, but early January 2020  
- contact Bonnie Laycock- [sblaycock@gmail.com](mailto:sblaycock@gmail.com)



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## WHITE'S CHAPEL UMC VIM TEAM WORKS IN GUATEMALA

Before our team of 11 from White's Chapel United Methodist Church, Southlake, Texas, arrived in Quijé, Guatemala, men and women carried heavy bags of sand, cinder blocks and other materials along narrow dirt paths amid rough terrain to their homes. Their hard work and the materials they carried were for a basic and essential item to everyday life – a simple stove with a flue for ventilation.

The pastor of the local Methodist Church identified the families who were in the greatest need. Our team worked with master stove builders and apprentices provided by Stove Builders of Guatemala. Working together we helped 18 families from the village of Quijé build stoves in their homes. These stoves will vent the smoke from the living area providing a safer living environment.

Before the construction of these stoves, these Mayan families cooked over simple indoor wood fires – filling the rooms with thick smoke that left the walls and ceilings black with soot. As Mayan children stood and watched us work on the stoves, their nagging coughs reminded us of the importance of our work. With every cough we would say aloud to each other, “this is why we are here.” According to the World Health Organization, respiratory infections are the leading cause of death for children under 5 years of age in Guatemala. God was with us all along. We were humbled by the beauty, kindness, and amazing hospitality of the Mayan people. We got “down in the dirt” and used our hands to share the love of Christ with our Amigos por Siempre. I truly believe that we made some forever friends in Quijé.

Submitted by Mark Mobley, White's Chapel UMC



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## **FAQ** (Frequently Asked Questions) *See next issue for more FAQs*

**How many stoves have been built since SBG began?** 1,692 have been built. Note that of that number 1,020 were built by the stove builders when no work teams were involved.

**Do work teams build stoves in the summer?** No because that is the “wet” season in Guatemala. Work teams go in the “dry season” Nov-April. Cement won’t set if it gets wet.

**Where do work teams stay when in Guatemala?** Usually in simple, comfortable hotels.

**How much is the total cost of a trip?** Costs are in the range of \$1,200-\$1,400 dependent on air-line fares, the number of stoves the group plans to build and location in Guatemala.

Reserving a place in a work team is \$100. You will know your total costs before you make your final payment. This cost includes: transportation to the country and within the country, meals, & hotel. Usually, the U.S.A. church raises money for the building materials and costs related to having the stove builders who are working with the team. Any personal purchases are not included. The shopping is great!

**I have no idea how to build a stove. Will I be able to help the stove builder?**

Yes. We have a booklet that explains the tasks work team members will do. The local stove builder will be the main builder and he knows how to involve you!

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