

Psalm 121:1-2



Cubulco, Guatemala, October 2021

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Dear Friends,

Our hope and prayer is that this letter finds you well. Once again we thank you for your constant prayers for us and for the ministry that you support in Cubulco, Guatemala.

VISITING PATUY

In the previous Newsletter we mentioned that Alejandro was going to visit one of the “aldeas” (small village) that is accessible only by motorcycle and foot. The name of the aldea is “Patuy” which is about 40 kilometres away. The population of this village is about 3,000 mostly indigenous people; a high percentage are Mayan - Catholic and the rest are Evangelical. The last time I visited this area was in 2004 and since then there have been a lot of changes. Most of the houses have electricity now and the girls have changed from their traditional clothing to more Western clothes.

I visited this village because a Charismatic Catholic group was celebrating their first Anniversary of formation. It is very common to invite other Christian groups to join in the celebration. Denominational differences are not nearly as pronounced as they are in Canada. It was a really good experience to see how God uses any circumstances to bring His people to Him. That night the church had a vigil service that went from 6 pm to 11 pm. The service was divided into time for singing, prayer, preaching and then to share a meal (tamales: a corn based dough with meat which is wrapped in banana leaves and then steamed). We spent the night in that village, sleeping in the church on benches and then the next morning we went back home. By doing that we stay connected to people and communities around the area.



Children eating “Tamales”

UPDATES...

Salamcho Church..... 2

Diego Mario Story.....3

Prayers Request.....3

LINKS

- <https://impacthope.ca/cubulco/>
- <https://centralchurchcambridge.ca/cubulco-guatemala/>
- <https://impacthope.kindful.com/?campaign=1120508>





Praying for church members and the community during a Salamcho church service.

SALAMCHO CHURCH

For those of you who don't know about the Salamcho church, here is a little back story. This church was built back in 2014 with the help of 5 churches from Canada under the auspices of Impact Hope (Missionary Ventures back then) In 2018, we returned to build three Sunday School classrooms with Central Presbyterian Church from Cambridge and Fellowship Baptist Church from Burford. This Church is located about 15 minutes away from Cubulco. The majority of the members are indigenous. Like many other places around the world, the president of Guatemala has imposed another lockdown as well as a curfew to stop the spread of the virus. Since last month we have been in lockdown and it doesn't look like it is going to be lifted anytime soon.

It is questionable whether lockdowns are a good thing or not given that the economy of small places like Cubulco is based on a day to day earnings because there is no help for small business from the government or EI for employees. As a result, life here continues mostly normal as people need to go out and find work to sustain their family, small businesses need to be open to supply the needs of the people in town, restaurants need the opportunity to sell their food and churches have the blessing to open their doors to give hope to those people who are living in fear. Therefore, churches like Salamcho can be a light in this dark time. Somehow they have to keep up with life and its challenges. The last couple of weeks, even with some restrictions in place, we were able to have a service at church and got to see some of the brothers and sisters.

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another" 1 Peter 4:10



DIEGO MARIO'S STORY

When we just arrived in Cubulco, we were doing a lot of cleaning at our house. Our yard was full of bushes that need to be cut back and there was a lot of yard waste that need to be removed. Additionally, I was really busy with our paper work and needed to go to the capital of our province, Salama to have it done. To help us out with the yard work, I hired a young man, Diego Mario, who was recommended by my sister.

That morning I gave him instructions as to what I wanted him to do. He had the work done by lunch and then I ask him to repair the walls of our kids' rooms, which he did. He is a really good and fast worker. After that day I wanted to keep in touch with him so I went to visit him and meet his family. I realized that he is living with his grandmother who is not able to walk properly due to an ulcer on her left leg and she needs to use a wheelchair to get around.

I asked him if he goes to school and he told me that he left school because he needs to provide for his grandmother.

Diego's mom is the only child that his grandmother has and she is living with another man in one of the aldeas of Cubulco. I noticed that Diego didn't want to talk about it. I asked then about his dad and he told me that he doesn't know him. His dad left his mom when she was pregnant with Diego.

Now, Diego who just turned 17 years old, doesn't have the opportunity to finished school or even think of having a career or an apprenticeship to survive. Diego's story is just one of many people in Cubulco and highlights why we are here. The challenges of day to day life can be crippling for people. Often the poor want to work, but life's events make it difficult for them. They are often caught in a series of circumstances that hinder them from flourishing as human beings.

"I left school because somebody has to take care of my grandmother"

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Visit ImpactHope's Website:
<https://impacthope.ca/cubulco/>

To Donate Online:
<https://impacthope.kindful.com/?campaign=1120508>

You can also contact **ImpactHope** directly or contact **Central Presbyterian Church, Cambridge.**



IMPACT hope
SHAPING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

www.impacthope.ca
office@impacthope.ca
 Tel: (519) 824-9380

Registered Charity #:
 137405619RR0001

ABOUT US

Thanks to God we are doing much better then when we got here. It seems like we are handling the stomach problems way better. Our kids are involved in different programs and activities in town. The three youngest have swimming lessons at the local pool and our oldest is very busy with university. For now Kathryn is home schooling. Sometimes we have internet problems because is to slow or we don't have electricity for a day for maintenance but other then that they are doing very well.

Please intercede for us in the way that Apostle Paul taught the Colossians: "Pray for us... that God will give us many opportunities to speak about ... Christ... Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should" Col. 4:3-4

PRAYER REQUEST

- Pray for the members of the session of the local church for guidance and healthy leadership.
- Pray for Mario Diego and his grandmother that he will find a steady job opportunity.
- Pray for the ministry in Cubulco and the Salamcho church to be a light in this community.



The Ortiz Family

Alejandro, Kathryn, Madelyn, Abigail, Joel & Nolan