



Missionary Ventures Canada

INSPIRE HOPE • ENCOURAGE CHANGE



Each One of Us Has a Story

According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, security (i.e. shelter, job, health, safety, etc.), is of high importance to every human being. With the onslaught and continual crisis of the pandemic, people all over the world are experiencing a lack of security. In our western world, COVID-19 has shaken most people and brought chaos, and in the midst of it, we must remember these words which are so often forgotten but remain true:

*"In this world you will have trouble. But, take heart!
I have overcome the world." - Jesus (John 16:33 NIV).*

In my conversations with our partners overseas, I have heard the words of Jesus illustrated—heartbreaking stories of trouble and hardship. Our partners have experienced struggles that far exceed the magnitude of what we are experiencing in North America. Yet, as I listen to many stories of trouble, I have also heard of Jesus' promise redemption, stories that illustrate perseverance, faith, strength, kindness, justice, peace, hope, and most importantly love. These stories defy human reasoning and logic in a world that can be so downcast.

As you read, may you be encouraged and challenged by the stories people are living and the work Jesus is doing through you and our missionaries!

BRAD WILSON
(DIRECTOR OF MVC)

Inside This Issue:

- Pg 2 - Bringing Hope Through Education
- Pg 3 - Project Hope in Peru
- Pg 4 - A Place of Love
- Pg 4 - A New Partnership
- Pg 5 - Medical Care in Nebaj
- Pg 6 - Training Pastors
- Pg 7 - More Midwives Needed!
- Pg 8 - More Reports and Developments!

BE ENCOURAGED!



ALLEVIATING POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION

A STUDENT REDEMPTION STORY

Last year was a challenging year for Shelter of Hope students. With the Kenyan government's push to force the school's orphans into the community for a complete closure of activities, the children met the already struggling community with lots of challenges. With the lack of income-generating opportunities and a shortage of food due to COVID-19 regulations and weather, MVC supporters were instrumental in providing emergency food relief to help the transition into foster homes. Yet, even with these assistance programs, many in the community felt the hunger of limited resources.

Through these challenges, however, Shelter of Hope and MVC's support were instrumental in providing an opportunity to share the gospel with the host families. Coupled with the aid, the response was very positive. One family in particular was inspired by the faith of the Shelter of Hope student to trust in Him during the nights they lay hungry. The family has now given their lives to the Lord and are attending Shelter of Hope's Grace Bible Chapel regularly.

“

“Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”

– Martin Luther King Jr.

”

PRAISE REPORT

“With the loss of our largest child sponsorship donors in 2020, the additional special attention by MVC's employee Hannah, to the cause of our school, has saved this year's (2021) program. Without their weekly encouragement and support, we would not have been able to open our doors with fresh motivation and hope.”

– Ishmael (Director of Shelter of Hope Kenya)

SHELTER OF HOPE ACADEMY 2021

After a year-long pause on education in Kenya, Shelter of Hope Academy's doors have opened at the beginning of January 2021 to their students. Students have returned excited to learn, but exhausted by the multitude of challenges that they have faced; lack of income, food, and commodities, high risk of infection, a rise of inflation, and increased stressors within family dynamics.

MOVING FORWARD

Families and students are eager to go back to school, as our children in Canada have been. Without funding, however, it is hard to accommodate the enrollment capacity of students while adhering to Kenya's COVID-19 regulations and the increase in demand of student financial aid.

MVC also supports education efforts in Guatemala and Haiti!

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to help support Shelter of Hope Academy, we have a **Student Sponsorship Program for 50\$ CAD/Month** with information on the child you are providing for. Students are chosen based on 3 criterias for sponsorship:

1. The child is an orphan.
2. The child has only one living parent.
3. The child's parent(s) is sick with HIV which incapacitates their care of the child.

This contribution will be used for the child's education fees, medical care, nutrition and assisting the COVID restrictions within the classroom.

ENROLLMENT IN KAGAN & NAIROBI

Kagan Enrollment
Kindergarten to Grade 8

177 Students

Nairobi Enrollment
Nursery to Grade 5

233 Students

SPONSOR A CHILD'S EDUCATION TODAY!

To Donate & Sponsor, Please Visit:
<https://missionaryventures.ca/shelterofhope>



PROJECT HOPE - IQUITOS, PERU

HOGAR GENESIS - CHILDREN'S HOME



"2020 was one the hardest years for the world and for our ministry, but it was a year where we really saw God at work. He has helped us provide food, love, and other essential needs to families in the poorest areas of Iquitos. We were also able to reach and provide to both the men and women's prisons in Iquitos. We are still in this battle of COVID-19 and entering the second wave, but we will continue serving, loving, and reaching the lost for Christ. **Because of YOU, about 1500 individuals and 30 families were helped and provided with food during 2020.** Many families were blessed and could survive because of your generous donations!

God is good...#Heisalive" - Rodolfo

Thank you for helping us provide food and other essential needs to those who need it most in Iquitos. Since the majority of the focus last year was on emergency relief due to COVID-19, we are set back in our fundraising goal in opening Hogar Genesis. With the effort ongoing for several years in Iquitos, things are quickly coming to fruition thanks to your patience, support and involvement! Plans are developing in order to open the home in 2021. It has been a hard arduous journey with construction delays, changing regulations, and other factors. But we believe that all those delays have made this effort stronger and more focussed, yet the need to open is greater than ever! More children are being abandoned on the streets due to COVID-19 and the public orphanages are over capacity.



JIMMY & GUSTAVITO - ABANDONED

Jimmy and his brother Gustavito are currently being cared for at a public orphanage in Iquitos. Due to the amount of children in this orphanage, children just like Gustavito and Jimmy are patiently waiting for Hogar Genesis to open! Their mother is unfortunately still not able to care for them as she is still consuming and selling drugs. Please keep their mother in your prayers.

Due to the city's requirements for the opening of Hogar Genesis, a special fund has been started to raise the needed **\$85,000** needed for the first year operating expenses. We have called this effort PROJECT HOPE—to bring hope to the children of Iquitos. **To date, we have received \$20,000!**

Funds donated to Hogar Genesis will continue to support the ongoing expenses of Belen Kids, the Prison Ministry, the street ministry as well as the remaining construction needed.



GIVE TO PROJECT HOPE TODAY!

To Donate & Give Hope, Please Visit:
<https://missionaryventures.ca/projecthope/>



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[HTTPS://MISSIONARYVENTURES.CA/PERU-IQUITOS/](https://missionaryventures.ca/peru-iquitos/)



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TAT'S PLACE - PUERTO MALDONADO, PERU

**"WE WANT TO BRING HIS CHILDREN HOME,
INTO A HOME WHERE THEY ARE LOVED!"**

On January 31st 2021, Tat's Place celebrated its 1st Anniversary! The Blackburns and the children celebrated with "several cakes and cool drinks" as they reflected on all that God has done in the past year. In 2020, 16 children were cared for and 8 continue to live at the home now. Since 2014, Tat's Kids has loved and cared for 36 children!



"We are now into a second wave of Covid and in many parts of Peru the cases are escalating quickly. Here in our region the cases are not too bad and things are pretty much normal aside from Sunday restrictions and 9pm curfew. We are only in town once a week for shopping and a date night for Tracy and I. School will once again, be online starting in March, we will continue to homeschool. Our last letter in 2020 we were asking you all to pray about how you could support Tat's Kids as we closed out our year end. Praise the Lord for His great faithfulness! In December we received tremendous amount of child support for 10 children in the home! This is just amazing! we see year, after year, God re-affirming his mission here in Peru as we serve the children He places into our care! "Thank you all who pray for us and support our work here. We are always working hard to be faithful stewards of the work that God leads us to. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial resources sustain us! Thank you for being a part of our team! You are making a difference!"

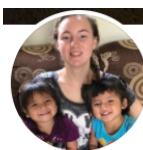
With love, and a sincere sense of gratitude for your partnership in the gospel, hugs and love from Peru!

- Scott, Tracy, Tatiana, Caleb, Jaxon, Matthew, Yuri, BruceLee, Treysi, Josue, Misael, Briana, Elizabeth, Benjamin, and Miriam

SUPPORT TAT'S PLACE:

If you want to continue to support the wonderful things that they are doing for these children in Peru, you can give:

- Directly to Tat's Kids Peru; this is direct child support for the children in the home.
- Personal Support for Scott & Tracy Blackburn
- Blackburn Special Projects; For any ongoing projects



**Tat's Place and Tat's Kids Peru
Blackburn's in Peru**

@TheBlackburnsInPeru · Nonprofit Organization



DONATE TO TAT'S PLACE TODAY

<https://missionaryventures.ca/peru-puerto-maldonado/>

A New Partnership in Kenya - KEDHAP



Food Security for People Living With HIV & AIDS

Through a divine appointment, MVC connected with a project in Kenya called KEDHAP. After months of discussions with the Kenyan board as well as their Canadian supporters, KEDHAP officially became a part of MVC in October 2020. KEDHAP (Kenyan Economic Development HIV and AIDS Program) is an effort in western Kenya in Kisumu County. While the AIDS epidemic was devastating western Kenya in the 1990's, a group of indigenous Kenyan Mennonites felt called to reach out in Christ's love and compassion to help their suffering and dying neighbors, comforting them, caring for orphans and widows, and encouraging other church people to join their mission. With almost no money and very few resources, they demonstrated both commitment and faithfulness in using all their resources entirely for their neediest beneficiaries and asking themselves the question, "How can I serve, even with no money?"

From its humble beginnings, KEDHAP has steadily grown until it now serves thousands of participants in a wide range of programs, in an extremely poor rural area. At its start, almost everyone in KEDHAP came from the LUO ethnic community, but provision was always made for incorporating and helping neighboring Nandi people, a sub-tribe in the area. Both the Luo tribe and the Nandi tribe experienced periods of conflict, at times, turning violent. Bringing both communities into working together in friendship and mutual partnership. Addressing shared needs together, has been a major emphasis of KEDHAP. (Cont'd on page 5)

MEDICAL CARE - NEBAJ, GUATEMALA



Our partnership with our friends at Servicio Medico y Esperanza in Nebaj, led by Juan Pablo Noriega and Carolina Astorga, continues to be very strong and we are thankful for the work that is ongoing there. There are a number of highlights that we would like to share with you.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the Nebaj area very hard. As a result, many people in that community became ill and lost their sources of income and food supplies as local markets were closed in the lockdowns. Initially, the number of patients seeking care at the hospital declined sharply for several months as people were confined to their homes and were fearful to move around the community. This created a crisis not only for the hospital but for many in the community. While there is a fine line between barely surviving and not eating at all, the gap between the two diminished greatly due to a lack of day to day income. With no support

available from the government, Missionary Ventures Canada launched a fund-raising campaign to support the hospital staff and to provide our partners there with the means to purchase corn and beans to feed the local population. Over 500 families were fed for an entire month with support coming from Canadian donors! We are deeply grateful for the support of the MVC community for these efforts.

We are also grateful that the number of patients has returned to somewhat normal levels, thereby increasing the income for the hospital. A total of 6077 patients were treated at the hospital in 2020, an increase of almost 1300 from the total in 2019. This increase reflects the increasing level of trust and support that the hospital is earning in the community. At the same time, the number of people seeking care who can not afford to pay for that care has also increased, and MVC is presently engaged with Juan Pablo and Carolina in discussions about ensuring the long-term sustainability of presently the efforts.



IN ADDITION TO THE CONSTRUCTION, THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE IN NEED OF SUPPORT:

1) The school in Nebaj has expanded to 11 students and operating remotely for the entire year (until December). Due to the needed restructuring, more teaching assistants needed to be hired. In addition, electronic equipment is urgently needed.

<https://missionaryventures.kindful.com/?campaign=1020774>

2) As mentioned, there has been an increase in the number of patients the clinic is seeing who are unable to pay the fees required due to the poverty in the area. We will now be receiving funding to assist in the cost of patient care for those in need.

<https://missionaryventures.kindful.com/?campaign=1108969>

A New Partnership - KEDHAP Cont'd...



Sanitary pad distribution and teaching

In addition to the Women empowerment program (sanitary pad distribution), KEDHAP is also involved in agricultural efforts, table banking for economic sustainability for the poor, education sponsorships for the vulnerable, relief programs for people living with HIV & AIDS, and other mentoring and community efforts.

Many lives have been impacted though out the years! MVC will be working together with KEDHAP in creating plans for greater levels of sustainability.

A Girls Health Program was started with an aim of retaining girls in school and to improve their class performance. This is done through provision of sanitary pads and underwear as well as having sessions with the girls about their health and improved hygiene practices. There have been tremendous results from this program throughout the years as the percentage of girls staying in school and completing secondary school in the area has increased from 6% in the 1990's to 84% presently! They now serve over 4000 girls per month. Many girls have been able to achieve their dreams since this program started! But now, due to COVID-19, it is unknown how many of these girls will go back to school once the schools re-open.



The challenge of social distancing in Kenyan schools

THE GRACE PROJECT-AFRICA

"Thanks to YOU, our generous donors and sponsors, The Grace Institute was able to still teach 31 students! Even in the midst of a pandemic and all of the complications surrounding education last year, we were still able to have 8 students graduate! With the Lord, anything is possible!"

- Brian Windsor (Founder of TGP-A)

ABOUT THIS MINISTRY

The Grace Project-Africa Ltd. is a nonprofit NGO registered in Zambia and they are focused on training pastors who are called to serve but have not completed grade 12 (due to literacy issues and lack of finances). Did you know that approximately 3 million of the world's pastors have not received the proper education they need to preach, teach, and oversee their churches effectively? TGP-A targets the equipping and training of the estimated 85% to 90% of pastors globally who are untrained and cannot access a good Bible school education!

Why is national pastor training so important? There are several key advantages for training national pastors:

- They are local and know the culture and language
- There is higher probability they will remain in the community for years, if not a life time
- It is very cost efficient
- In many cultures, they are the key strategic leader to reach into a local community

It is critical that pastors not only think and teach Biblically, but to lead Biblically. Yet, so many pastors untrained adequately.

**Pastor Health Affects Church Health and
Church Health Affects Societal Health**

PASTOR TRAINING SPONSORSHIPS

A lack of resources is often the key issue of pastors not receiving the training that is needed for them to teach and lead more effectively. Many sacrifice financially to be obedient to their calling. And day to day survival is difficult. Therefore, many do not place training as a primary focus because of immediate day to day need and the lack of resources.

Pastor training sponsorships will assist in covering the pastors' transportation costs, all the course materials and text books, as well as other tuition fees which helps with the operational costs of the school.

CANADIAN CONNECTION



MVC's efforts with Migrant workers in Canada have been hindered greatly due to the impact of COVID-19 and the continued pandemic. Yet, this work through Ellie and Lila Quezada in BC and Julio Farfan in Ontario is so vital. It is not only a work of bringing Biblical truth and encouragement to this vulnerable sector, but a work to ensure that their rights are protected and their needs are met.

These individuals have an integral role in the food security sector of Canada. Yet, what is not known is the sacrifice and hardship that many of these workers endure. But, due to COVID, the welfare of the migrant worker sector in Canada have often been highlighted in the news due to increased COVID infections, over crowded conditions, and strenuous and long work days. concerns that were brought to the public's eye and the forefront of the news. These workers often experience mental health issues - due to COVID-19 this has increased. With this in mind, we seek to serve and help them at the very basic level and where the system fails them.

SUPPORT A PASTOR IN TRAINING TODAY

For \$100 CAD/month, you can assist a Pastor in training at the Grace Institute full time!

Partial monthly support is also appreciate!

To sponsor the Training for a Pastor visit:

<https://missionaryventures.ca/thegraceproject>



Graduating Class of 2020

CASA COMPASIVA & TRAINING NEW MIDWIVES



In May 2020, one of Casa's midwives received an urgent call at 5AM for a birth. Little did she know that not only was this baby coming, but he was coming fast! As she turned the corner to park at the center, she received a call advising that the mother was having the urge to push. The midwife quickly opened the gate and moved the labouring mother from the front seat of her car to the birth room. Attempting to follow procedures, the midwife rushed to prepare for the delivery of this baby who was already 9cm dilated.

As the midwife was grabbing some baby blankets and instruments, the mother yelled "I gotta push." She was just in time to receive a good splash from the water breaking, and to prepare

a blanket as the baby's head appeared. As the baby was born, the birthing assistant arrived. The midwife stated: "Everything was so fast, I was in automatic".

As the high of the moment began to de-escalate, worry seeped into the mind of the midwife of all the COVID-19 regulations and basic procedures that had been missed. Did she give them hand sanitizer? Her stress heightened as she thought over her forgotten face shield, their unsanitized shoes, her backwards Dr.'s gown, ... until she asked, "What is the baby's name?"

"Emanuel", the mother replied.

In that moment, the midwife's worries disappeared for she knew that Emanuel meant "God is with us". God was with them, and He provided a protective shield around them. His grace made up for the gaps that sometimes happen admits urgency.

Be at peace, he is with us!

STORY TAKEN FROM CASA COMPASIVA BLOG, BY LATISHA SERRANO



Since the Mexican government began to encourage women to make greater use of midwives and birth centers in order to relieve congestion in the already overcrowded hospitals due to COVID, Casa Compasiva witnessed a jump in clients from previous years. In 2020 alone, they attended to around 500+ prenatal, postpartum, and nutrition appointments. There was also a double of births in the center totalling 36 since the previous year. The ministry has been also able to provide discounts for birthing families who have been struggling financially because of COVID.

TO SUPPORT CASA COMPASIVA'S MINISTRY:

<https://missionaryventures.kindful.com/?campaign=1043260>

TO SUPPORT TRAINING OF NEW MIDWIVES:

<https://missionaryventures.kindful.com/?campaign=1043260>

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

- Psalm 139

They have been able to do all of this because of you and your families contributions—Thank You! The increase of interest in the ministry of Casa Compasiva had created another issue—the need to train more midwives! Currently, the staff at Casa Compasiva includes 2 midwives, 2 Doctors, 2 Doulas, 1 Administrator, and 2 Housekeeping that ensure the rooms are sanitary and safe for birth; yet this is not enough to meet the demand. In June 2020, Casa directors and staff began revamping their midwife training to meet international standards with the goal of obtaining official recognition. The three year course load is based on a progressive understanding of pregnancy, birth, postpartum, and Women's reproductive health. With the start of the program in fall 2020, there are currently 2 students enrolled in the online classes with the goal to graduate Spring 2023. They ask for prayers as they continue to seek the Lord for wisdom and discernment in the training and student selection process.

2021 MISSION TRIPS

Due to COVID-19, all teams are cancelled until further notice. There are still places for you to serve in the ministry! Call us to explore these options!

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c/o Bridge The Gap International
PO Box 702558
Tulsa, OK 74170-2558
Call 918-477-7007 to donate
to any projects of MVC/GHI

"Spending of funds is confined to MVC's approved programs and projects. While we endeavor to use each gift towards an approved program as desired by our donors, MVC retains the final decision on how to allocate all donations. If any given need has been met or cannot be completed for any reason, the understanding is that the gift will then be used where it is most needed or where another opportunity of similar nature exists."

Our Mission:

We exist to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ through partnerships with Christian leaders by developing sustainable projects that address the cycle of poverty and to encourage people to personally participate in impacting our world.

Our Vision:

To be a catalyst for change: To change the lives we serve and to see lives changed of those who go to serve!



LET'S STAY CONNECTED



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CUBA

The news from Cuba is difficult to hear for those who have been there and join in in this very personal ministry. "A lot has changed in Cuba, and at the same time, nothing has changed. The economic crisis does not change for the better, it just keeps getting worse. The social and political situation does not get better either. The government started a new economic program and implemented changes—things that only complicate things more. The salaries for people have been raised 5 times, but the prices of commodities have been raised 10 to 20 times. Rations that used to be around 4 CUC for a family, now costs 35 to 40 CUC. Rice alone has increased from .25/lb to close to \$1/lb and is not always available for the consumers."



COVID-19 is having a huge impact on the entire island. With imports very low and increased security measures and possible arrest and confinement if individuals are caught with more food and supplies than what they ought to have in their possession, our workers are in danger. Yet, they are willing to take the risk to complete what God has called them to and to serve their people. Pray for their safety and protection from the virus.

To support the workers and ministry in Cuba, please visit:

www.missionaryventures.ca/support and scroll through the various options for the efforts in Cuba.

Other Efforts

Through the generous support of donors through our **Gifts Of Life program**, enough funds were received to support **Hlalisile** in **Swaziland**, a long time friend of MVC and MVSA! Enough funds were sent to help restart her chicken broiler project that brings sustainability to the ministry with the children she reaches!

Also, through generous donations, MVC sent funds to assist not only in COVID Relief, But also to the **Philippines** after a major typhoon went through Rizal Province.

MVC is committed to finding other ways for ministries overseas to support their own efforts primarily generating funds within their respective countries. This not only avoids dependency but honors God in the process!

KEEPING YOUR STORY ALIVE

PLANNING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW!

Missionary Ventures Canada has recently partnered with Link Charity Canada Inc, in order to better service our donor base. Link Charity is an agency that assists people in their long-term gift planning through proper estate, financial, and tax planning. This can be accomplished through various gifting options, such as charitable annuities, gifts of securities, donor advised funds, and bequests. Their professional advisers can provide you with the right planning resources to assist you in reaching all of your charitable goals!

Contact them at 1-800-387-8146 or visit their website at <https://www.linkcharity.ca/>.

Link Charity
Canada Inc