

# The Cassel Connection



Serving in Guatemala. May, 2020 Newsletter

## A Focus on Compassion Ministry



Preparing for food distribution.

We trust you are dealing with the COVID-19 virus and staying safe. Here in Guatemala there have been varying restrictions on our movements to buy essentials. There have been curfews and we are not allowed to meet in groups. We have 1518 confirmed cases of the virus with 29 deaths and 129 people have recuperated.

Since we have not been allowed to meet as a church I have been sending out short You Tube messages on Sundays. Sadly, some of our people do not always have the internet to listen to these messages. As in other places around the world many of our people have lost their means to produce income and have very limited savings. We have started distributing food items including beans, rice, cooking oil and coffee and sugar. We have been delivering these items every two weeks for a total of five deliveries. We are committed to this ministry until our people are allowed to return to work. Many thanks to some of our family members for their generous contributions to this ministry.



Jose and Anita receiving food for our church members in their colonia.

## Elderly Man Receives Jesus

Mario who is the husband of our worship leader Anita asked us to travel to his hometown to share the gospel with his father Valentin. (Valentin is pictured on the left wearing a tan coat). He is from a small village located in the mountains in the department of San Marcos. It took us nearly 6 hours to arrive there. Late that afternoon on January 13 Valentin made a profession of faith to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior at the age of 80!

The next day we traveled back to Guatemala City. I told Mario and Anita, "Twelve hours is not too far to drive for a soul." The family was again grateful for Valentin's decision as he died from complications due to emphysema on May 1st. We praise God for His grace and mercy which is available to all.



## Youth Outreach



Our youth leaders Francisco and Karina want to give our youth the opportunity to share their faith. On February 11th some of our youth and Karina passed out water bottles and talked to people and invited them to church. The water bottles had labels on them with information about our church. The group focused their outreach at a bus stop and other areas close to the church. . We are excited that our youth want to express their faith in tangible ways.



## Internship

In the summer of 2018 Cassandra Smith came to Guatemala with her youth group from Mechanicsburg BIC Church. She fell in love with the people and the country. After college she feels called to serve as church planting missionary in Guatemala.

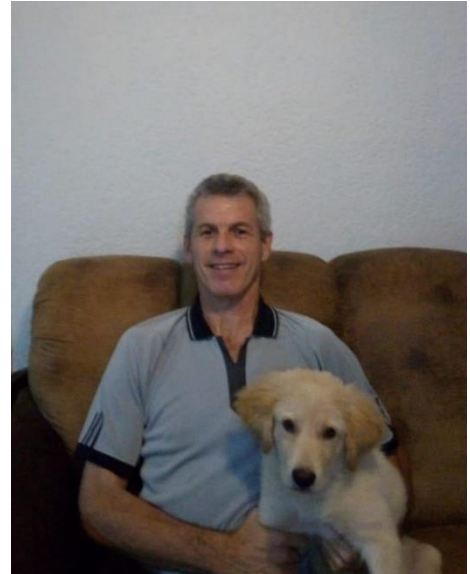
She was scheduled to spend her summer break on an internship here in Guatemala. She wants to learn Spanish, work in children's ministries, and teach worship song writing in some of our churches. Her arrival in June has been delayed due to travel restrictions. Pray that she can join us here in July.



**Cassandra with our Associate Pastor Delma**

## Meet "Bo"

When we left Mexico in April of 2016 we were saddened to give up our beloved dog "Duke" for adoption. When we moved into our apartment in Guatemala we were told we could not have any pets. Since both of us have had dogs for most of our lives, this was hard to accept. A few years later through some prayer and "negotiation", we were given permission by the landlord to have a dog. On March 9<sup>th</sup> we purchased Bo just in time before the quarantine began.



***We serve under the auspices of Brethren in Christ U.S. World Missions. Contributions preferenced for our ministry may be sent to BIC U.S., 431 Grantham Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-5812 or***

**[Donate online](#)**

***We also serve as associates with BIC Canada-Global and contributions in Canada can be sent to BIC Canada-Global, 2700 Bristol Circle, Oakville, ON L6H6E1.***

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### Prayer and Praise

- Please pray for creative ways to lead and that our church people can stay committed to the Lord during this time of social distancing.
- Please pray that people here will trust the Lord and see their needs met.
- Please pray for Cassandra Smith and her plans to intern here.
- We are thankful that we now have our temporary residence cards for Guatemala.
- As always, we are grateful to you our supporters for praying, for your giving and for blessing us.

Blessings, Mike & Lori