

In Focus

Mano con Mano Health Reach Newsletter
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“Enter the Land that the Lord will give....as He promised.” Ex. 12:25

New Land for Feeding Center in Yalu

With God’s direction and your support, Mano con Mano has purchased the land (pictured above) in Yalu, Guatemala. After a long period of hoping, praying, and negotiation, we were able to purchase this field in the Kaqchikel village of Yalu near the clinic where Susan started working in 2003. We believe this is a major step in God’s plan for Yalu, which has no evangelical church, and many hungry children. As we were wondering who would design the multi-purpose building we hope to construct, God provided a newly-graduated Guatemalan architect named Maria Jose, and her husband-builder from the U.S., Brennan Doyle. Their ministry in Guatemala is to design and help build for Jesus, and we found them in our local church--isn’t that amazing?!

Many people in Yalu have accepted Jesus into their lives as their personal savior, but have no church to attend. Children have given their hearts to Christ at a vacation Bible school held by Centro Biblico Renevo, yet they continue to go to school without a healthy meal, making it hard to learn.

Men with alcohol problems continue to struggle with drinking but have no way to receive help in overcoming their struggle. Pregnant mothers often do not receive adequate nutrition or pre-natal vitamins that may help prevent birth defects.

Currently, plans for the feeding and worship center are being drawn; digging started on March 14, and with God’s help, children and expectant mothers will begin receiving free meals in a month or two. Our hope is that, when completed, the building will serve as a multi-purpose center in Yalu: a feeding center, a church, a prenatal clinic, a recreation area for children, a location for evangelistic outreach events (music, Christian movies, VBS, etc.), and as a place for Bible studies and other special classes. All the partners--Centro Biblico Renevo (a CAM founded Guatemalan church), MCM’s supporters, and Jesus Christ--have come together to make this possible.

YOU MADE IT HAPPEN!

And our hope is that you will continue to make it happen. Currently we lack the funds to complete a building. Soon we hope to be feeding 50 of the neediest children of Yalu, but that number could easily climb to 300 children. The support of Lorenzo to oversee the feeding center and pastor the church is our concern. You all made it happen so far, but it is just beginning. Because of low overhead and volunteer staff, over 95% of your gifts go directly to support MCM’s ministry in Guatemala and other parts of Latin America. Your support is still very much needed--whether as a team member to help in the feeding center’s construction or as a donor to MCM for food, medicine, medical care, or any of the many things provided by MCM.



Children waiting for feeding center in Yalu...see harvested corn on the ground below. Sometimes tortillas are the only food eaten for days at a time.

What's next in Yalu?

As we print this newsletter, men from Yalu are working hard to level the land and dig a trench for the first two walls of the feeding center. We are studying bids for the first phase of construction and praying for the right team to put the plan together. The main building is 12 by 20 meters (39 x 65 feet). With a large open dining and worship room and attached kitchen. The first stage of the building can accommodate the feeding center, Sunday and midweek worship services, community meetings, evangelistic Bible studies, "movie nights," fellowship times, health education and prenatal classes. To take advantage of the slope of the land, a half basement will be placed under the large building to hold bathrooms, classrooms and small exam and storage rooms. We hope to have space for housing mission teams who will come and help with various phases of the construction. Some team members can help teach mothers in the feeding program better nutrition and meal preparation, hand crafts and hygiene.

A later project will be, Lord willing, a smaller two story building that serves as an apartment upstairs for missionaries, pastors and visitors from the U.S. It will be a relief to have a place to spend the night after a special event and not risk the long drive home in the dark. Finally, a large open cement area will serve as patio, basketball court, "papifutol" field and outdoor seating for movie viewing in the dry season.

In the last twelve months, over 200 people from Yalu have responded to the message of Jesus Christ. It has been outreach programs, food for the hungry, and visits to the sick that have touched hearts and demonstrated that the love of God is real. Our hope is to plant something permanent, Guatemalan run, full of hope and eventually self-sustaining that will give credence to the gospel and translate the gospel into the language and needs of the people of Yalu.

Why feed them?



Three year old boy with malnutrition, parasites and dehydration... we hope to see less and less of this with God's help and your partnership.

What is needed?

People

- 8-10 workers from Yalu to work for a year
- Plumber and Electrician
- Work teams to finish walls, kitchen and bath, patios
- Prayer Warriors committed daily to Yalu

Materials

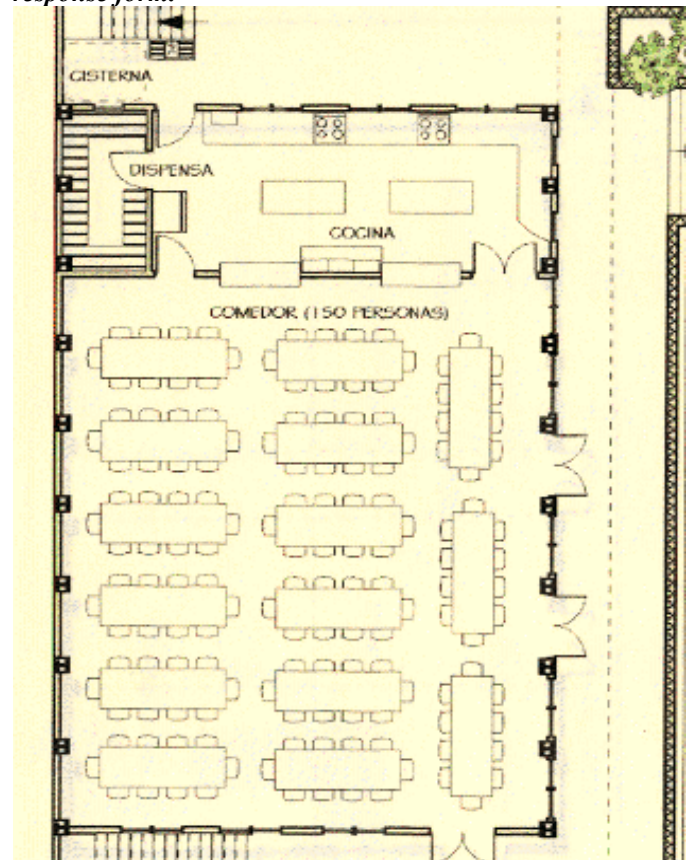
- 100 cubic meters of poured concrete
- Block and rebar for basement and perimeter walls
- First floor steel structure
- Steel and acrylic roof with beams
- Refrigerator, stove and cabinets
- Pots, pans, knives, cutting boards
- 4 sinks for food preparation and dishwashing
- Tile for kitchen, bathrooms and floors
- 300 plastic chairs
- 30 folding tables
- Plates and cutlery for 300
- Plumbing and electrical supplies
- Bathroom fixtures (toilets, sinks, faucets)
- Windows and doors
- Paint
- Septic tank and Water Cistern

Monthly Maintenance Needs

- 50 sponsors at \$25/month for food and supplies
- Lorenzo and Maria Juana's monthly support
- Cooks salaries x 4

If you would like details on the cost of items listed, contact us via email.

If you would like to help with a one time gift or monthly support of the feeding center, please respond on the enclosed response form.



Architect's drawing of Future Ministry Center in Yalu



First believer from Yalu baptized March 6, 2005.

The young man here is Lorenzo Canel. He is a 26 year-old Kaqchikel man from Yalu with four children. A year ago an article on him told MCM supporters how he had suffered an injury to his knee, had a serious infection, and was in the hospital. We visited him in the hospital and left him a Bible and small radio. Through that, God has changed his life. Today he attends church regularly with his family although the trip requires nearly two hours in each direction (there is no evangelical church in Yalu). In January he began Saturday classes at Guatemala Bible Seminary. Because his employer would not give him Saturdays off (he worked Monday – Saturday), **Lorenzo** quit his job and decided to trust God to care for his family. Since he speaks Kaqchikel in a town where everyone speaks Kaqchikel rather than Spanish, he is an invaluable link in MCM’s outreach to Yalu.

We believe **Lorenzo** is God’s provision to oversee the feeding center in Yalu and pastor a church there. He is not a dynamic, ambitious individual, but a humble, accepting servant of God. We ask that you pray for him and his family. They are living on faith in a village where dark forces surround them, yet they stand as a beacon of God’s light in Yalu. Lorenzo and his wife’s faith stand as an inspiration to many of us who dare not walk where they walk. This simple young man has given his life to Jesus in order to change his village, to give hope to the hopeless and to bring joy to the despairing. Without Lorenzo, we could never hope to bring the message of hope in Jesus Christ to the Kaqchikel people of Yalu, Guatemala. **Lorenzo** and his wife, **Maria Juana**, are a miraculous provision of God. Sunday services start April 3, in Yalu with Lorenzo translating. *If you would like to contribute to their monthly support, please indicate on the enclosed form.*

Jones Report from Guatemala



Susan and Memo Jones continue to work in Guatemala. Their ministry opportunities have grown considerably in the last year. Susan continues to work two days a week in a missionary clinic in the tiny village of El Arado seeing Mayan patients who speak Kaqchikel. A normal day includes seeing from ten to thirty patients with everything from broken bones, machete lacerations, diarrhea, colds and pregnancy. Susan works with Anita Giagnacavo, a Canadian nurse who founded the clinic with her husband Greg. On the days Susan is not in El Arado, she sees drop-in patients from El

Campanero, a poor village near the Jones’ home. Most of the patients are women and children. This past week patients came with coughs, gout, infected toenails and a miscarriage. Recently a couple gave their lives to Christ in this tiny backyard clinic. For fun, Susan plays with Maria Juana and Lorenzo’s four children, practicing for the day she has “real” grandchildren.

Memo, the Spanish nickname for Bill, remains busy with his time split between teaching MK’s at CAG, coaching basketball, planning the feeding center in Yalu and discipling Lorenzo. He has become Papi Memo and Tio Memo to many children from Yalu. He faithfully visits the sick in hospitals and prays for the day when the ministry in Yalu is self-supporting and run by an all Mayan ministry staff. Please pray for wisdom regarding the upcoming school year. There is not enough time or energy to do everything Memo loves to do. It’s tough living in a middle aged body with the heart of a child.

The Joneses have made Guatemala more of a permanent home by obtaining Guatemalan residency and finishing an abandoned home as their residence. They continue to need your prayers and encouragement to “finish the race” that God has called them to Guatemala to complete.

Ester Pirir continues to be a HUGE blessing to the ministry of Mano con Mano and Hands of Hope clinic in El Arado. Ester translates from Spanish to Kaqchikel, evangelizes, performs nursing duties, handles hospital referrals and visits the sick. Ester is a prayer warrior and prays faithfully for many of you. Thank you for supporting Ester and her amazing ministry in Guatemala. **Please continue to pray for her safety, health, support and wisdom in her many ministries.**

Update on Ester



Special Needs Patients



Brandon Canel continues to struggle with problems related to hydrocephalus following a brain hemorrhage at 4 weeks of age. Now seven months old, Brandon has spent much of his life in the hospital with his mother, Estela, at his side.

Please pray for a resolution to his complications and for God’s best to happen for this precious family. Two other young children wait at home for their mother and brother to return. Your donations have sustained them with medication, food, bus fare and gifts of encouragement along the way.



Sara Victoria Guamuch says, "thanks for my new smile" three months after cleft lip surgery. Next step is to repair her palate.

Pastor Jose Rodriguez still faithfully ministering in Villas del Sol after 10 years.

Who would have dreamt that a young auto body mechanic with three young children would give his life to Christ and become the pastor of the Iglesia Nueva Vida in Villas del Sol, Mazatlan, Mexico? That is exactly what has happened. Since his first time volunteering to host a Mano con Mano team in 1996 and provide the evangelistic outreach that went with a medical and dental team, Jose has faithfully served the community in Jesus' name. Hundreds of people have come to know Christ through Jose's gift of evangelism. For the first five years of his ministry, Mano con Mano supported Jose in the "Sister Church Project" under the direction of the mother church, Iglesia Cristiana Congregacional in Mazatlan. Today the church is fully self-supporting, growing, steadily influencing lives and hearts in what was once a shack village "invasion" filled with poverty and hopelessness. Over 15 short term teams from Seattle Christian Schools and Mano con Mano have helped establish the church as a place of love and hope in Jesus. Iglesia Nueva Vida now supports Guatemalan missionary Ester Pirir. Thank you to all who have gone, prayed, supported and encouraged Jose in a ministry that was often thankless and extremely difficult. Please keep praying for God's work in Villas del Sol.



Johann Yi, DDS, Seattle dentist and MCM board member, has taken many trips to Mexico with SCS and MCM. This last year he has branched out and started leading teams to other countries. He took his office staff to Jamaica last year and is heading to Cameroon April 10-27 with a dental, medical and evangelistic team. Pray for Johann as he travels leaving Sandy and little Matthew at home as prayer warriors.

Lisa Curran, RDH, MCM board member and pastor's wife to Rev. Brian Curran, has pulled up stakes and headed to Kansas to minister alongside her husband. Lisa has participated in and led over a dozen short term teams to Mexico. Please pray for Lisa and Brian as they reach out to a new community for Christ. We hope to be supporting teams from Seattle and Kansas under their capable leadership when the dust settles in the Curran household.

Sharon Im-Lee and Quinn Lee hold down the fort in Seattle keeping us online, funded, encouraged and organized. Sharon puts her MBA and accounting education to use for Jesus as the MCM board treasurer. Sharon and Quinn were blessed with a home which changed our mailing address:

Mano con Mano Health Reach, c/o Sharon Im-Lee
1200 Bradner Place South, Seattle, WA 98144
For email updates write: suejones@aol.com

Updates from other corners of the World

Mano con Mano partnering with Seattle Christian School in Mexico City

Late Easter Sunday, a team of 15 high school students from Seattle Christian School's Missionary Outreach Program along with team leaders, Carolyn Watson, Larry Watson, Rebecca Traynor and Brian Nelson will embark on a journey to Mexico City. They will conduct a week long vision clinic based in a local Christian church. During the week they anticipate seeing about 1000 people and will conduct basic eye exams and dispense glasses for distance, reading and sun protection. The local church will use the clinic as an opportunity to spread the Gospel and witness to the love of Jesus Christ.



Brian Nelson, MCM Medical Director and board member and also a retired ophthalmologist, will oversee the vision clinic and provide eye care and diagnosis for difficult problems that might arise during the week. He is excited to work with these highly motivated high school students, many of whom have expressed a desire to pursue future careers in the mission field. He notes that the weeklong clinics are designed to be fun to participate in but can be physically demanding, as large numbers of people are seen each day. The mood is very upbeat and the smiles on the faces of people who are seeing better (both physically and spiritually) than they have in years provides the motivation to continue. "Once you've caught the short term mission 'bug' it is in your blood and you'll want to keep going back." This is Brian's fifth year serving as a volunteer eye doctor to the poor with Mano con Mano and Seattle Christian Schools. Over the years, donations raised by Brian have made it possible to buy new and improved vision equipment and supplies.