

# In Focus

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Mariajosé, Lucia, Benjamin and Brennan Doyle

## New Field Directors for Guatemala!

Due to the growing demands of the Nim Jay nutrition center, Mano con Mano has added two new members to the Guatemalan ministry team. They will serve as permanent field directors in Guatemala, overseeing further construction of the ministry center and community projects, as well as maintaining the nutrition program in Yalu. Mano con Mano would like to present a bi-cultural husband and wife, Brennan and Mariajosé Doyle. Susan and Memo have known them for the last three years and worked with them since the inception of the Nim Jay feeding project in Yalu. Mariajosé was the architect who drew the original plans for the construction of the building that is now the Nim Jay feeding center. Brennan, her husband of four years, has a background in missions, and currently oversees construction in several mission projects.

Brennan Doyle is originally from the state of Wisconsin (but don't hold that against Him). He grew up in the small town of Rhinelander. His family began attending Grace Foursquare Church (which sent a team to help in Yalu just this past March). Jesus soon touched his heart during a summer camp at the age of 12, and he accepted Christ. After high school he attended Northwestern College where he received a degree in English Education (again, don't hold that against him). Later he spent two years teaching English in Hungary. Following this, he came to Guatemala to visit his sister who worked for Food for the Hungry. With God tugging at his heart, he decided to return to Guatemala on a long range mission, and he worked at a large children's home doing maintenance. It was here that he met his wife, Mariajosé, who also worked in the same ministry. Though his Spanish was weak, as was her English, their love was strong enough to overcome linguistic barriers. They were married in Guatemala in 2003.

Mariajosé Garcia Toledo de Doyle, age 26, was born of Guatemalan parents and raised in Guatemala City. When she learned that her father was gravely ill in 1995, she turned to Christ as her savior, as did her father. She completed basic secondary school and soon began taking classes at the

University in Guatemala, as well as part-time classes at SETECA, an evangelical seminary in Guatemala City. She began studying architecture and worked as an intern at Engineering Ministries International planning building projects used in Christian ministries. She graduated from the university with a degree in Architectural Planning as a licensed architect. After meeting Brennan at a children's ministry where she designed structures, they decided to marry and serve the Lord together in any way they could be used in Guatemala. Soon they found themselves parents, since the children's home took in a newborn girl who was left to die by her mother. Brennan and Mariajosé adopted little Lucia, who is now three years old. Before long, they again became parents when Mariajosé gave birth to their own son, Ben, now two.



Dr. Efraim Teleguario, Brennan and Mariajosé lead lunchtime worship, Lucia and Benjamin waiting to swim after lunch!

Brennan and Mariajosé Doyle are dedicated and hard-working servants of Jesus. They have worked on various ministry projects without requesting payment, instead trusting God for their support. Mariajosé drew the plans for Nim Jay without seeking recompense. They have proven to be faithful, loving, caring and heartfelt servants of Jesus Christ in Guatemala, and Mano con Mano is extremely blessed to have them join the Guatemalan ministry. We look forward to their vision and dedication to Jesus' ministries through MCM in Guatemala. Please pray for them as they learn a new ministry and work to increase their prayer and financial support.



Celebrating One-year Nim Jay Anniversary, May 18, 2007



**GRACE FOURSQUARE CHURCH FROM RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN**

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Grace Foursquare Church arrived from Rhinelander, Wisconsin. They stumbled out of the plane pallid from Wisconsin’s long winter and gasping for breath in Guatemala City’s 5,000 ft altitude. Pastor Bob Messerli and his wife Luanne, Jim Sebastyan and wife Kathrine, and carpenter Randy King made up the team of five whose goal was to build as many beds, outhouses, and stoves as time would allow. Unbeknownst to them, the stoves and outhouses would be put on hold as time both speeds up and slows down in a little village like Yalu. It’s a lesson every team gets to learn.

The local builders from Yalu were amused by the Rhinelander men’s boisterous jesting as together they began the first of what turned into a production of 20 beds. Soon curious neighbors were passing by. Enthusiasm for the affordable, solid, rustic-looking beds soon stretched Susan Jones’s waiting list to its second page as everyone wanted to get signed up for their own bed. By the end of their second week in Yalu, Bob, Jim, and Randy had worked themselves out of a job. The men from Nim Jay had mastered the cutting and assembling of the beds and were turning them out quickly and efficiently. “It’s a blessing to know that 20 people will be sleeping better after this,” commented Bob Messerli as he pulled his hat lower on his sunburned forehead. And the truth is that for every bed made, anywhere from two to four family members will be cozily resting off the floor, bringing to mind John Denver’s song about “Grandma’s Featherbed.”

Before they returned to the slush and mud of a Wisconsin spring, the Rhinelander group was blessed immensely by “Movie Night” at the Nim Jay building, where several men, women, and children gave their hearts to the Lord. Jim Sebastyan was touched to the point of tears, summing up what was in everyone’s thoughts as he said, “It’s beautiful to see what God is doing ... and to be a part of something as awesome as this.” Their plane flew out the following Friday, the tropics fading quickly into a miserable Midwest thaw. But Jim had a smile on his face. “My wife says we’ll be coming back,” he exclaimed joyfully.



Grace Covenant Church-Olympia’s third year of music in Yalu

**Grace Community Covenant Church Team Returns for third year mission!**

On Easter Sunday, April 8, a team of six adults and three teens arrived in Guatemala from Olympia, Washington. This same team from Grace Community Church came to serve at the Nim Jay in July of 2006, preceded by the famous “love ditch” team of youth and adults in July of 2005. Apparently they didn’t learn their lesson, because all except one had come on the previous team. Last time they came, a huge fence was erected around the playing court. Also women’s and children’s ministries were conducted.

Since the past Grace team served faithfully and with obvious vigor, their dedication would really be put to the test on this year’s trip. It was decided to tackle the “dreaded barranco” (a run-off ravine) at the property’s lower corner. This job is particularly nasty because the barranco is virtually a drain for sewage, rain water, and garbage from the community.



Pastor Bob Messerli and Jim Sebastyan delivering beds



Paul, Dave and Lanny venture into the barranco

Unfazed, the three men (Paul, Dave, and Lanny) braved the depths of the barranco, dug, picked, and eventually constructed concrete steps to slow the water run-off and direct it away from the retaining walls. By the end of the week, a beautiful concrete channel was nearly finished. In fact, the barranco channel is such an architectural vista, that we have decided to not permit even rain to enter it. However, the rains will come and due to the hard, conscientious work of the Grace team, the torrent will travel harmlessly down the gently descending cement channel.



**Barranco turned into a concrete drainage channel**

In addition, the women from on the team painted virtually everything in sight—the kitchen, basement, and almost the entire exterior of the feeding center building. A women’s ministry afternoon was also conducted, with the Yalu women eagerly stringing beads while hearing Bible stories. At the end of the week, the workers from Yalu (construction men and kitchen women) were treated to a bar-be-cue to thank them for working extra hours and extra hard to help while the team was there. A tearful thanks with authentic Mayan woven gifts given to the members of the Grace Church team followed lunch, and all promised to see each other again next year.



**Grace-Olympia team paints everything in sight**

A special service was provided by Lanny who constructed a “cargo net” for children to climb to the top of the playhouse on the playground. Thanks to Lanny, many a Yalu child will be trapped like a minnow caught in a fishnet as they attempt to climb to the top platform.

To celebrate a week of hard work, and to continue fellowshiping with our dear Grace friends, the Joneses, Pedro and Nohemi España and the team went to visit some Mayan ruins and the famous Lake Atitlan and surrounding villages.

A special time of prayer and dedication ended a wonderful week of hard work, ministry and fellowship.



**2007 Grace Covenant Team in Yalu with Nim Jay Staff**

### **Nutrition Program Continues to fight for the children of Yalu**

With the first visit of Grace Covenant Church-Olympia, the enrollment for Yalu’s nutrition program began. One of the first interviews was with a mother who had just buried her third child from starvation. That interview was the “final push” to move forward and construct a multi-faceted ministry center that would not only feed, but educate, disciple and heal. After 16 months of feeding mothers and children, and a full year of serving hot, nutritious meals, we weren’t happy with the results in every family. In February Dr. Efrain Teleguario was hired to work three days each week examining children, visiting homes and teaching health and hygiene to mothers and children. After realizing that not every child under the age of two in the nutrition program was gaining sufficient weight, we began to investigate the family and household reasons behind failure to thrive. Sadly, maternal depression and ignorance regarding feeding needs of children between six months and two years are the main contributors to disturbing malnutrition in these villages. To combat these problems, educational and support programs have been added for the mothers of Yalu.



**Completed playground, thanks to Seattle Community, Grace Foursquare and Grace Community Churches “team effort.”**

### **“THE STATE OF YALU” (a village address)**

Down a rough dirt road twenty-three miles from Guatemala City, is the location of the Nim Jay, or Big House as the

nutrition center is named in Kaqchikel by the “Yalutecos.” The people who live in Yalu are of pure Mayan descent and still speak a Mayan language. Farmers for centuries, they subsist on corn and a few other locally grown vegetables. However, farm land is limited and many children suffer from malnutrition during the dry season when few crops are grown. Thus, construction of the “Nim Jay” (also an acronym for *Nutrition Infantil Maternal Jesus Ama Yalu*) began two years ago February, and now is only a couple months short of completion. The dining room, kitchen, office, sewing/clinic exam room and bathrooms are complete and functioning. A children’s columpio (playground) is attacked by hundreds of ravenous little Yalutecos. Numerous retaining walls are in place in preparation for the upcoming torrential downpour beginning in May, and the latest project of the concrete lining of the “barranco” (a 20 foot deep ravine) on the lower side is complete. Keeping Nim Jay intact during the six-month rainy season is tantamount to keeping leaks out of the Ark, but thanks to the hard work of the men of the Grace Community Church team which came this April, Nim Jay’s walls will remain in place instead of floating to the Pacific Coast.

Once construction is complete, full attention of the Nim Jay ministry will be directed in the following two areas: 1-develop the efficiency in feeding, enrich the diet, and increase the number of children and mothers being fed thrice weekly, and 2-health-related community outreach projects. These projects, designed to improve life and health in the community have already begun, but are being carried out on a limited basis until all Nim Jay building projects are completed.

**1-Chicken Project:** this includes the construction of domestic chicken cages and the supplying of baby chickens to assist families in eating more protein by raising their own poultry. Cages are made of PVC tubes and wire mesh provided by MCM, as well as a starter supply of baby chickens which will be fully grown and eatable in 35 days.



Carpenter, Randy King, checks out a “baño” in Yalu

**2-Baño Project:** to this point, two backyard bathrooms have been built by MCM gifts, and eight others are in progress. Few families in Yalu have any type of bathroom facility at all. MCM developed a simple design for a backyard facility that includes an enclosed toilet and bathing area. This project could have tremendous implications on health in the village. Materials cost approximately \$250 per baño.

**3-Bed-Making:** With the arrival of a team from Grace Church, Rhinelander, the first phase of bed construction took place. Forty beds (including mattresses) were built in the outdoor “shop area” of Nim Jay, and sold at below cost to families in Yalu. Many of the people of Yalu sleep on the ground (on

woven mats), so a real “off ground” bed with is a luxury few can afford. With the gift of a beautiful new power miter saw and a stipend for more wood, Nim Jay hopes to resume the “Yalu Bed Factory.” Thanks to the training of carpenter, Randy King, three Nim Jay workers are proficient and excited about bed-making. Wood and mattress can be purchased for \$50 to provide a sturdy, comfortable bed “made in Yalu.”

**4-Stove Project:** Many families in Yalu and other villages cook over an open fire pit in a part of their house or a separate “kitchen” hut. The smoke from this type of cooking is causing serious lung disease and eye irritation for thousands. The average Guatemalan family consumes a tree each month solely for cooking. That’s 12 trees a year for each Guatemalan family using firewood! Guatemala is losing the battle to prevent deforestation. A cement-tile stove, developed by a ministry in Guatemala, is far more efficient, using far less wood to cook the same amount of food, as well as containing and directing the smoke away from cooking area and out of the hut or house. It costs \$100 to provide a stove for a family.

There are multiple other projects that can be addressed in this primitive village, but the main goal remains feeding underweight children. Fighting to keep our focus, the perspective with which we began was to **(1) improve nutrition in children so that they might develop mentally and physically, and hopefully be successful educationally thereby having a means to escape the cycle of poverty, and (2) share the gospel in a way that the people of Yalu might understand what God has offered them and turn their lives to Christ (to know that Jesus can EVEN speak Kaqchikel).** And if the walls of Nim Jay do not wash away during the upcoming rainy season, Yalu children will continue to receive food for the body—and food for the soul.

## Jones Update

After four years of teaching, building, healing and feeding in Guatemala, Memo and Susan Jones are heading north for a sabbatical and role redefinition. They remain actively involved in Mano con Mano International, leaving more of the daily duties to the growing Guatemalan staff. This allows more travel to Mexico and the US on behalf of MCM. Your support, encouragement and prayers are needed more than ever as MCM-Guatemala (now a legal non-profit foundation in Guatemala) attempts to add more programs and recipients this year. Graham, Erika and Justus have moved to Washington with Colin, Grace and baby to be. Grandma and Grandpa Jones hope to spend the summer with family and friends.



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