

The Desires of their Heart

He came to Impact Ministries as a student in Grade 6. A mischief-maker in the public school system, his parents hoped a Christian school would “straighten him out”. At first, everything was strange – especially the exuberant singing during devotional times. It didn’t take long, though, for the worship to become his favorite time of the day; a place of refuge and safety. It was during one of these special moments of intimacy with God that Hector poured out his heart and told the Lord that he wanted to become both a teacher and a pastor one day.

She came to “check out” Impact Ministries some years later, after graduating as a teacher. She had asked three things of the Lord: to help her to become a teacher, to find her a place to serve Him, and to find the right man to become her husband. She was fascinated when, at a teacher’s meeting, everyone was encouraged to fast and pray for one student suffering from many problems. “Is there another school,” Ericka thought, “where teachers are willing to sacrifice to help one single child?”

Hector and Ericka both served as Vida teachers for a few years, then as principals. Today, Ericka is the superintendent overseeing all ten of the Impact Ministries Vida Schools. And Hector has recently been ordained to serve as a pastor for the Rio de Vida Church, founded by Impact Ministries more than 15 years ago.

God is giving them the desires of their heart. In 2008, despite being opposite in character, personality, and tastes, Hector and Ericka were married. Pastors Les and Rita declared over them on their wedding day, “You will serve the Lord together in ways that we can’t even imagine and He will guide you and provide for you,” Hector and Ericka never imagined how real those words would be!

“Our call is to serve the people,” say Hector and Ericka. “Many times we think: ‘Why Lord Jesus? Why us? We are not capable; we are so small.’ And He answers: ‘When you are weak, then I am strong in you. And then it is no longer you doing everything, but I in you.’ In this we rest!”

We are thankful that Hector and Ericka have been called to Impact Ministries: “It is where we are called to serve, to raise up leaders, to love and extend God’s grace; the same grace that the Lord gives to us,” say Hector and Ericka. “We are full of joy here, we are challenged to believe and to be faithful to that which the Lord has placed in our hands. Simply said: we are in awe of what our heavenly Father is doing!”

Please pray for Hector’s travel visa to come through for Impact Ministries Canada, as he is hoping to join Les Peters in Canada in October.



Hector and Ericka and their family.

Back to School

September is back to school time in the U.S., and what better way to mark the season than by connecting with a class in Guatemala! Join Hector and Ericka in raising and inspiring young leaders by supporting a class in one of our Vida schools. Check out details at www.impactminusa.org/support-a-class

Bonus! If you’re one of the first 40 people to support a class at \$50/month, an additional \$250 will be donated towards health benefits for our teachers, thanks to a generous donor.



Ericka placing a cap on a graduating student



Hector sharing the gospel

Celebrating Impact Staff & Volunteers!

What keeps a ministry going? Truly it is God who supplies all we need, from donations to staff members to volunteers. We celebrate all that God has provided, including these, our amazing staff and volunteers. Here are a few:



Bill and Debra Cole (Carnation, WA), our volunteer Office Coordinators handle all things related to the physical office. From distribution of U.S. postal mail to the correct volunteers for processing to bank deposits, they've got it covered. We're so grateful for their seven years of service to the ministry!

Bill and Debra also support a class, and Debra joins an open team from time to time to stay in tune with how God is working on the ground in Guatemala.



Jim and Marisa McClain & Family (Bettendorf, IA), our Sponsorship Onboarding and Newsletter Mailing Coordinators. Jim and Marisa handle the onboarding of Sponsors and Support a Class donors that want to receive their packets via U.S. Postal Service. In addition to this, the whole family has a huge heart for the ministry and coordinates "envelope stuffing parties" to get our newsletters into your mailbox



Edgar Suc (Tactic, A.V.), one of our Ministerios Impacto Board Members in Guatemala, manages our agricultural program in Tactic. Edgar has an engineering degree in agriculture, and under his capable

supervision, our agricultural project is consistently producing crops. Thanks to Edgar, vegetables are delivered to the school kitchens each week where our cooks prepare delicious and nutritious meals for the Vida schoolchildren.



Let us introduce you to a few more of our volunteers and staff:

Alex (Tactic, A.V.), uses his videography and photography skills in Guatemala to capture photos and video footage for the sponsor office.

- **Emily** (Philadelphia, PA), is part of our translation team, helping translate our students' cards from Spanish to English so you can hear from your sponsor children
- **Jamie** (Lancaster, PA), is also a part of our translation team, helping you hear from your sponsor children
- **Chris** (Lafayette, IN), volunteers as a medical team recruiter and advisor.
- **Ruth** (Tactic, A.V.), one of our Ministerios Impacto Board Members in Guatemala, manages our Sponsor and Support A Class office. If you receive photos of your child, or letters from your child or class, these are just a few of the many products of Ruth and her team's dedication and tireless efforts.
- **Candy** volunteers as a remote consultant in various areas of the ministry including web maintenance, newsletter editing, and as an administrative officer.

>> **Want to volunteer too? Check out our website at www.impactminusa.org/volunteer for posted opportunities, or connect with us directly with your ideas. There are lots of ways to volunteer, and we would love to have you on board!**

**Watch
Your
Giving
Grow**



Your donations allow us to purchase a variety of local seeds.



We plant the seeds, growing crops such as tomatoes, green peppers, and beets.



Each week, we harvest and sort basketfuls of seasonal vegetables.



Save the Date to take a Bite out of Hunger

Save the date - #GivingTuesday is on November 28th, and we hope to exceed the 30,000 meals provided last year during our #NoHungryKids campaign. For our 2018 #NoHungryKids campaign, we have a generous donor matching the first 20,000 meals dollar for dollar. We know that children can focus and learn better with their tummies full, and for some of our Vida kids, the meal they get at school is the only one of the day. Take a bite out of hunger - \$10 provides 25 nutritious meals! And remember, the first 20,000 meals will be matched dollar for dollar

Watch your inbox and your Facebook feed on November 28th to join the 2018 #NoHungryKids campaign!



>> **Don't want to wait until #GivingTuesday to take a bite out of hunger? Consider giving to our agricultural project to help us grow our own vegetables to supplement our meals: www.impactminusa.org/agri-sustainability**

Giving Opportunities

Here's a short list of the giving opportunities highlighted in this newsletter:

- **Support a Class** - www.impactminusa.org/support-a-class
- **Orphan Care** - www.impactminusa.org/orphan-care
- **Agriculture Project** - www.impactminusa.org/agri-sustainability
- **Volunteering** - www.impactminusa.org/volunteer
- **#NoHungryKids** - watch your inbox & facebook feed on November 28th!

For more ways to give, check out www.impactminusa.org/program-support, fill out the enclosed remittance form and mail it to our office, or call us at (617) 855-5259. Thanks for making an impact!

Staff trip to Guatemala



In July, staff from all three Impact Ministries offices - Guatemala, Canada, and the United States - had a chance to meet together in Guatemala, casting vision, sharing testimonies, and getting to know one another more. This trip was designed to bring us together in unity as we seek God's face to lead us! How thankful we are for the beautiful people in all three offices who diligently work, day in and day out, on the various details and tasks that keep the ministry going.



The children and teachers extended a warm and lavish welcome as we visited their schools, making us feel so loved. Our time in Guatemala was encouraging! We have come home with hearts full and with renewed energy.



Some are trucked to all our Vida schools...



where our cooks include them in nutritious meals for our students...



who can concentrate and learn better with full tummies!



The rest are sold on the domestic market to help make Impact Ministries sustainable.

Children's Home Update

It's been five years since the Impact Ministries "Orphanage Committee" was formed, made up of Guatemalans and a few North Americans who are passionate about caring for the needs of orphaned and abandoned babies. The baby home is up! The paperwork is almost ready to submit to the government authorities in Guatemala for approval to open. This summer, a delegation from our orphanage committee met with the government ministry responsible for approving new children's homes. They recognize the tremendous need to care for abandoned babies and are grateful for the initiative that Impact Ministries is taking. There is still more to be done and more funds to raise as we prepare!



Please pray with us in these final stages leading up to the opening of the Children's Home. Of course, this is just the beginning, and we look forward to sharing our excitement as we progress.

>> To donate towards to the Children's Home see www.impactminusa.org/orphan-care

Sponsorship Team Update

By Marisa McClain

Why should you join a sponsorship team? LOVE! Showing the love of Christ to children through hugs, smiles and prayers as you make home or classroom visits. Feeling the love of Christ as these same children lay hands on you and pray for God's blessing in your lives. Seeing the love of Christ in action as you witness the lives of children, and often their entire families, transformed by the gospel. Bringing our two daughters on this trip was one of the best things we could ever do with them and for them!



The McClain family visited their sponsor child and the class they support in July as part of the 2017 Sponsorship/Family Team.

>> **APPLY NOW for the next sponsorship/family team, scheduled for August 7-17th, 2018 at www.impactminusa.org/open-teams**

Fall Schedule

Tim and Candy will be back in the States for Friends of Impact events starting in October. This season we will focus on the central United States, with a brief stop in Kentucky for the Global Medical Health Conference at the start of November. If you would like to host an event, please contact Candy Weaver at friends@impactminusa.org. To find an event near you, check out www.impactminusa.org/events this fall.



- **September 13 - 17** at Global Impact Conference at Dayton United Methodist, 7201 Wesleyan Dr., Dayton, IN (see *Church's Calendar for times of activities*) www.daytonumc.org/resources/calendar/
- **October 22** – connecting with Solomon's Porch Church, 1675 Baldwin St. Jenison, MI www.theporchonline.org
- **November 5** – connecting with Harvest Bible Chapel, 3800 E 53rd St, Davenport, IA www.harvestdavenport.org/

- **November 9 -11** – at Global Medical Health Conference at South East Christian Church 920 Blankenbaker Parkway, Louisville, KY www.medicalmissions.com/events/gmhc-2017
- **November 16-19** – at International Conference On Missions at Peoria Civic Center, 201 SW Jefferson Ave Peoria, IL www.theicom.org/

>> **If Tim is in your area and you would like a meeting with your church, home group, missions committee or Christian School, please email friends@impactminusa.org**

Serving in Guatemala

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