

From Guatemala to Africa

What does Impact Ministries have to do with bringing the Gospel into some of the least accessible parts of the D.R. Congo? Doesn't Impact Ministries only work in Guatemala?

Yes. Impact Ministries has been called to serve in Guatemala, with no plans to expand to Africa.

But part of Impact's ministry is with mission teams – and short-term missions can have a long-term impact, in Guatemala and around the world.

Dominic came on an Impact Trip as a teenager. The youth helped with construction and ran a Vacation Bible School, while a doctor and some nurses on the team spent time in the Vida Clinic.



"Serving the community in Tactic allowed me to get a glimpse of what the Lord was able to do through ordinary people like me," says Dominic.

As a teenager, Dominic learned God uses ordinary people

God Was Working Behind the Scenes

Leah came on two Impact Trips with her family before she was 15 years old. "I absolutely loved coming to Guatemala," she says, "and now I can see that God was working behind the scenes, preparing me for this."



Leah loved coming to Guatemala as a young person

This is being a translator for teams in Guatemala. It's Leah's second year serving alongside the Guatemalan hospitality team. "I really like translating!" says Leah.

She loves using the Spanish she's learned to translate stories of how God has worked in people's lives, and seeing God use those stories to impact the lives of others. She loves seeing connections made between children and their sponsors. And she loves being

"It was exciting to see how medical assistance and practical help changed outcomes for the community, but what was even more exciting was to see how sharing the gospel and the eternal hope we have in Christ impacted lives."



Today, Dominic flies Congolese pastors to their mission field

Dominic returned home, excited to serve. As he stepped out in faith, the seed that God had planted started to take shape. God combined Dominic's childhood love of aviation with his love of sharing the Gospel, and a decade after his trip to Guatemala, Dominic was in the D.R. Congo as a missionary pilot with Mission Aviation Fellowship! "The trip to Guatemala remains one of the landmarks in my life. Looking back, I can clearly see how God used the opportunity I had to serve there to confirm that He was leading me to serve in full-time ministry," says Dominic. And as Dominic continues to fly Congolese pastors into remote areas, we're thankful that God has woven together a story that connects Impact Ministries with distant parts of the world.

part of building relationships between team members and the community in Guatemala.



Today, Leah builds relationships between team members and the community in Guatemala

"When I first came to Guatemala, I didn't have a clue that I'd end up here," says Leah. "I wasn't dreaming of being a translator or even being involved in missions, but through those trips, Guatemala and the people here became close to my heart." God used those trips to prepare her own heart, and those trips are still having an impact as Leah shares her heart for Guatemala with teams.

Making Impact Trips Possible

There's a whole group of people who make Impact Trips possible. They serve teams coming from the US and Canada, and they serve the community in Guatemala. Let us introduce you to a few of them:

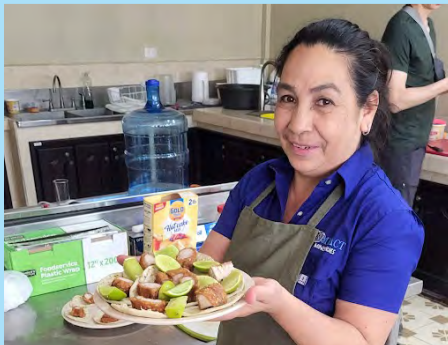


"I hope that we bless, encourage, and inspire North American Christians in their walk with Christ," says Julie, "and that we encourage and inspire Guatemalans through sponsor visits, children's ministry, and our interactions with local Guatemalans." "It's wonderful to see the reaction of the children when they see their sponsor," adds Julio. **Julio & Julie** are the directors overseeing the hospitality team in Guatemala, and they love seeing hearts touched by God through the children and the ministry in Guatemala. A highlight for Julie is the team debriefs, when team members see themselves, their lives, and God through fresh lenses.

As one of Impact's drivers and the vehicle maintenance manager for Impact, **Juan** helps teams get safely to all their activities. The highlight for him? "Seeing the Holy Spirit break through, speaking to the hearts of youth and adults."



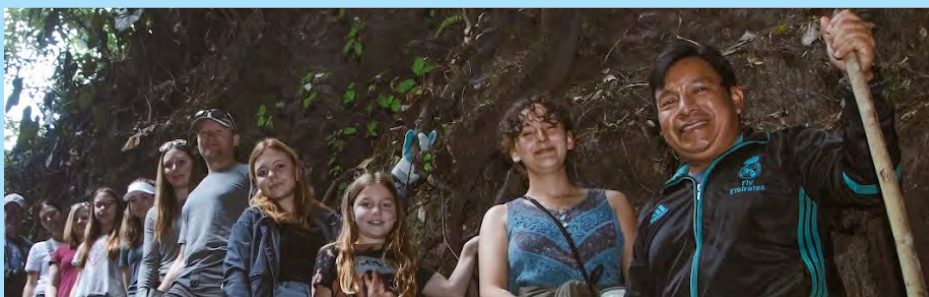
"Without translation, the work that God does in this ministry could not be fully understood," says **Kathe**, one of Impact's translators. "The impact is in listening, understanding, and repeating it."



"When I cook," says **Claudia**, "I do it with much dedication and also with a touch of love." And you can tell! Claudia has been cooking for Impact teams for 8 years, and the food is regularly described as *amazing, wonderful and absolutely incredible*. Good food is how Claudia and her assistants share God's love with the teams.



As the Teams Coordinator for Impact Ministries USA, **Mel** works from home making sure the logistics are in place for US teams to travel to Guatemala. She's loved developing relationships with team leaders and hearing stories of how their lives have been impacted through Impact trips. "Teams who go to Guatemala are expecting to make a difference in the lives of children and their families, and they do," says Mel. "Yet in my experience, those team members come away learning more about what worship truly is. It's a life-changing experience."



Hugo has such a gift for sharing God with others, and makes a huge impact on the teams he leads with his good example and his sense of humor. He loves to share about the life-change people experience when they know and accept God in their hearts! He's instrumental in making home visits a positive experience for both the sponsors and families. As an Impact team host, he helps put teams at ease, helps them understand Guatemalan culture, and helps them listen to what God has for them.

Want to experience an Impact Trip? Check [impactminusa.org/teams](https://www.impactminusa.org/teams) for more info.

The Difference a Hug Makes

What difference does a hug make? Delmi wasn't hugged at home. Her childhood home was marked by alcoholism, violence, harsh words, and no hugs. Delmi felt worthless.

But then one day, her sponsor came to visit her. "I remember my sponsor a lot," says Delmi. "Her name is Anna. And she came and hugged me and said *I love you* and *I want to help you.*" As Delmi heard her sponsor's words translated for her, she wondered how it was possible that someone could love her. "Who would want to help me if the people closest to me don't love me?" asked Delmi. "Much less someone from outside." She was amazed that someone would come from another place to give her a hug and to give her hope.



Today, Teacher Delmi shares hugs and hope with the students in her classes

Delmi remembers many people coming to her school. "What I remember most," she says, "is how the people decided to love us. How they decided to sacrifice many things and come from other places to give us hope, to share with us things that we might not have believed possible."

"I had already seen my future," says Delmi. "It was not very good because I had no hope. But now I had a hope to be someone better."

The impact of those school and home visits when Delmi was a child is reflected in the hugs that Delmi gives her students today. Now, Delmi is a teacher in our schools. Her greatest dream is to continue the great commission Jesus gave. Her story motivates the children who are going through difficulties. "There is hope even for the most destroyed home," says Delmi. "There is hope."



A hug from her sponsor spelled hope for little Delmi

Yes, I want to give hope to children in Guatemala!

- I want to go to Guatemala – please contact me
 Support a class \$50/month Sponsor a child \$40/month Invest in Education \$_____

Please make cheques payable to **Impact Ministries USA**.

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Recurring donations by Credit Card or E-check (ACH) can be made at:

impactminusa.org/donate

Hector and Ericka Beb are transitioning into the role of Operations Managers in Guatemala, working alongside Les and Rita Peters in the leadership of the ministry. What an affirmation that Impact Ministries is, indeed, growing godly leaders in Guatemala!



Impacting Guatemala through:

- schools
- churches
- medical & dental clinics
- orphan care
- sponsorship
- discipleship
- short-term missions

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"Impact Teams"



◀ **Impact welcomed 37 North American teams to Guatemala this year!** This included three medical teams, a mechanics team, a sewing team, two pastoral training teams, and many, many teams that provided children's ministry, visited sponsor children and worked on projects throughout our communities. Interested in coming to Guatemala in 2025? Check out impactminusa.org/teams

▶ **Our Vida students have all received their annual health checks,** along with vitamins, antiparasitic medication and fluoride treatment. We also have a new USee Vision Kit to more easily provide glasses for those who need them. Thank you sponsors, and thank you to all who give health to children and families in Guatemala!



◀ **Vida Chijacorral is the next school that will be getting a playground!** Some parts have arrived from Calgary, others through Kids Alive International, and we're hoping to put together the play structure this month. We're so excited to provide opportunities for play for the children at Chijacorral.



▶ **It's less than a month until the end of the school year in Guatemala.** Congratulations to all our graduates! Please pray for families who are deciding what's next for their children, and pray that many of our elementary school and junior high grads would be able to continue attending Vida schools.

