

Getting Schooled

IT'S A BUSY YEAR ALREADY!

As most of you already know, the beginning of the year is usually busiest for us, as we work to get all the kids of our families (and one adult) enrolled in and ready for school. We highlighted some of that process in our VLOGs, so if you want to learn more, be sure to check them out! We're also grateful that we had a successful first "run" of the virtual 5k for families! The money that was raised from the 5k along with the various donations that were received in 2019 really helped us with the cost of school supplies. Soon we will be putting out a list of what our needs are for next year in case you or your organization are interested in donating.

Additionally, Missy continues to attend her online classes through Messiah college. Dylan continues to work with the local church preparing and teaching the spiritual formation series. We had an exciting meeting about it this last month to discuss the future of the program and how we can better adapt it to the Guatemalan culture and learning style.

This year we have 19 kids and 1 adult attending school through our sponsorship program. Please pray for God to continue providing for their monthly tuition as well as the dedication and drive to do well.

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

For those of you who have been involved with the SARF ministry at all, you have met or have at least heard of Olga. Olga is the mother of a family we serve through the ministry who also serves us! For a long time now she has been the main person in charge of cooking for teams when they come down, helping us keep the Servants ministry center clean and in order, amidst other things. When we had to go back to the US last fall, she immediately stepped up and helped our team serve the other families!

We always recognized Olga as a servant leader and in the back of our minds considered her as a future member of our team. The time has come!

This January, Olga began working with us as a volunteer. Missy has been training her by taking her along on family visits and the funny thing is: she doesn't need a whole lot of training! We've seen her "jump right in" and begin ministering to the families we serve with enthusiasm, boldness, truth, and love. She has a real heart for the hurting.

Olga has broken through some barriers in the relationships we have had with the families for 7 years now in just one or two visits! There is SUCH a great value to having her on our team as she understands how difficult things can be living in a poor community with a very broken family background. She also understands, however, that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13) which is her favorite verse!

Additionally, Dylan is training up Javier, a young man from El Salvador who has been living at the church for the past couple of years to escape gang violence in his home country, to help him host teams that come to work with us in Guatemala.



Olga and Elias, her husband



Montego Bay, Jamaica

Dylan has been mentoring him for almost a year now and has learned of Javi's great interest in hosting teams. He even took extensive English classes so he could do it better! So, if you come down on a team to work with us this year, you will get to see Missy, but she will be focusing on her studies and other ministry duties which tend to take a 2-3 week "back burner" when teams come down.

JAMAICA BABY!

By the time you get this newsletter, we will be relaxing (finally) in Jamaica! Last summer, Dylan competed in a 14-week body transformation contest. The ultimate prize for first place was a weeklong trip to an all-inclusive resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica and he won! It's still hard to believe, but it is true! It is a very welcomed treat as this year we will be celebrating our 10-year wedding anniversary which we have been trying to save up for since years ago. With all that we currently have going on in ministry as well as Missy's studies, it was looking already like we would have to "shelve" our dream vacation together for another milestone. So, this helps us to celebrate AND save money!

Additionally, we've been blessed by some folks who have recently given to us specifically for our trip and for "just us" to enjoy time together, so that has allowed us to make the trip extra special and "splurge" a little on excursions (Really, how can you ADD to an all-inclusive???)

We are just so blessed and happy for God's continued provision whether it is for the ministry, our lives, our spirit, our health, and so much more. He gives us more than we could ever ask for or imagine!

God continues to also provide clearer vision for 2020.

The end of last year took quite a toll on us with extra unexpected expenses and travel to the U.S. We were constantly asking God, "what are you trying to teach us? What should we do in these situations? How do you want us to respond?" He has been giving us bite-sized answers to those prayers as we continue to seek His will for our lives, wherever that may take us.

We look forward to seeing what else He has in store for us, to include the 3 teams already planned to come serve with us this year!

PLEASE PRAY for Missy's ongoing health struggles. She was blessed to get connected to a gastrointestinal nutritionist who seems to be able to help her not only navigate the problems she has been having, but also diagnose and treat the core problem.

PLEASE PRAY for ongoing wisdom and discernment as Dylan leads our staff in Guatemala while also contributing to the executive level leadership team of Servants

PLEASE PRAY for rest! We were not able to get the normal rest we do over the holidays and have been running hard since the beginning of the year. We hope that this time away disconnected from the world will be a blessed time of refreshment and connecting with God and each other.

In His Enduring Love,

The Brobsts