

Chichi Chatt

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Special points of interest:

- Get to know Cristhian under STAFF STORY
- Celebrating 300! under MINISTRY UPDATE
- Meet Joseph under FEEDING PROGRAMS
- How you can help the widows and orphans of Chichi under MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

Inside this issue:

- The 300th house! 1
- Monte Flor Update 2
- Feeding Programs ~ Meet Joseph 2
- Scripture Reflections 3
- Ministry Prayer Requests 3
- Ministry—FAQ 4

November/December 2008

Staff Story

Meet Cristhian Salazar ...

Cristhian grew up in Guatemala City with his parents and three siblings. He has two brothers, Jose Miguel and Juan Pablo, and one sister, Karla.

His mother, Karla, worked as a house parent at Casa Bernabe orphanage, along with the family, during part of his childhood.

Cristhian has worked with the ministry for four years, since he joined his brother, Jose Miguel who worked with Pray America

in Chichi for the first five years.

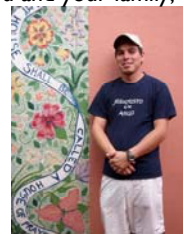
He is married to Veronica and they have two beautiful girls, Valerie and Mafe, ages 4 & 8 years. They live in Chichicastenango with two dogs, Oliver and Bruno.

If you have been to the House of Prayer / Pray America in Chichi with a team, then he has either driven you, built a house with you, helped you personally, and prepared things for you and your team before your arrival. He is invaluable to each team and the Chichi staff.

Some of his responsibilities include building coordinator / manager; finding widow house locations; transporting and building with teams; ordering supplies, handling vehicle maintenance, overseeing payroll and accounts payable .

We appreciate his service to the ministry , the teams, and the people of Chichi.

God bless you and your family, Cristhian!



Ministry Update—Celebrating 300!

In November, Pray America celebrated the 300th widow house being built!



Given the fact that the widow generally has several family

members living with her, usually spanning generations, that is hundreds of people sleeping in beds, up off the dirt and mud, and sheltered from the rain.

Thank you to the many teams

over the past five years that have built and blessed the families in the mountains of Chichi, in the name of Jesus.

Two-thirds of these widows now attend the weekly widow's bible study to learn more about who this Jesus is who gave their family a house.



Camera crews from the local newspaper interviewed Pray America staff members and the team who built the 300th home. The story then was picked up from a Guatemala City network and aired throughout the whole country.

Please continue to pray for the ministry staff, the widows with houses, those who will yet receive one, and for God's guidance in the selection of them.



“Tzedakah is a Hebrew word most commonly translated as charity, though it is based on a root meaning justice. In Judaism, tzedakah refers to the religious obligation to perform charity, and philanthropic acts, which Judaism emphasizes are important parts of living a sufficiently sacred life...Jewish tradition argues that the second highest form of tzedakah is to anonymously give donations to unknown recipients...”



Monte Flor - Orphan Care Center

Join us in praising and thanking God for his eternal faithfulness, and miraculous provision, that continue to surprise us, even when it shouldn't.

The Monte Flor land will be paid off by the end of 2009! That is amazing provision considering it also included renovating the two existing main houses and was doubling the operating budget for 2008 in order to do so.

Thank you for each and every donation towards this goal! You made it possible, by your obedience and generosity!

Now, we will begin the fund raising to build a well and main comidor (cooking and eating center.)

The only natural spring in Chichi runs under the property . Drilling a well will provide fresh water for Monte Flor and the surrounding commu-

nity at a cost of about \$75,000.

We are still praying for direction with each step on what God has planned for Monte Flor and Ron appreciates your prayers for God's guidance.



Feeding Programs— “A life restored” by Nancy Haveman

Foreword by the Editor: If you have visited the newest feeding program, Saquilla, then chances are you have seen Joseph. If you haven't met him, you have seen his work by how smoothly the feeding program operates. We would like you to get to know him and hear God's glory in his life...

José pol Canil always greets visitors at Saquilla with a big smile, a warm handshake, and a “God bless you”. To visitors from the U.S. he introduces himself as Joseph.

Joseph and his wife Juana, along with their four children, live and work at Saquilla. He has worked for Pray America for three years and is also a teacher at all three feeding programs. Joseph states that he is very fulfilled and blessed in his role as teacher and caretaker of the property. That has not always been true. It has been a long journey getting to this point in his life.

Joseph was born in Chichicas-tenango and grew up in Patzi-

bal. When the war in Guatemala started, he was ten years old. His father was lost during that time and Joseph lived with his mother and brothers.

When he was 17 years old he



joined the army, where he served for five years. Joseph was badly wounded by a grenade and lost his left eye. He also has many other wounds from combat and still carries

the scars from the war in his body.

After the army he started working as a security guard at a bank, which is a very dangerous job. He found this job to be stressful, with the strong possibility of being harmed or killed. He was very dissatisfied with his life and found solace in alcohol. He eventually moved his family to Saquilla, but they were very poor. Joseph's drinking continued.

“Joseph also thanks all the people that have given financially to buy food for the children at the feeding programs...”

Pastor Miguel and some members of the community began to visit Joseph and his family in their home. Over a period of time, Pastor Miguel helped Joseph see a need for God in his life and Joseph became a follower of Jesus Christ. Pastor Miguel was instrumental in helping Joseph secure his job as

Feeding Programs - "A life restored" continued...

teacher and caretaker at Saquilla.

When asked how his life has changed, Joseph is quick to give Jesus all the glory. His face beams with joy and he tells of



how much the Lord means to him.

He gives all credit to God for his family life, his job, the joy in his heart, and a future filled with hope. He states "I am finally happy with Jesus in my heart and I am sure that the Holy Spirit will supply all my needs."

Joseph also thanks all the people that have given financially to buy food for the children at the feeding programs and for giving him the opportunity to work

for this ministry.

If you ever get a chance to experience one of Joseph's handshakes and greetings of "God bless you" while you are at Saquilla, know that you are looking at a truly miraculous work of God. Another life transformed in that region of Guatemala.



... Unlike philanthropy, which is completely voluntary, tzedakah is seen as a religious obligation, which must be performed regardless of financial standing, and must even be performed by the poor; in Judaism, tzedakah is considered to be one of the three main acts that grant forgiveness of sin, and the annulment of bad decrees."

Scripture Reflection

2Corinthians9:10-1-5

"He who provides both seed for the planter and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your *tzedakah*.*

You will be enriched in every way, so that you can be generous in everything. And through

your generosity will cause people to thank God, because rendering this holy service not only provides for the needs of God's people, but it also overflows in the many thanks people will be giving to God.

In offering this service you prove to these people that you glorify God by actually doing what your acknowledgement of the Good News of the Messiah requires, namely, sharing gen-

erously with them and with everyone. And in their prayers for you they will feel a strong affection for you because of how gracious God has been to you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

* "Tzedakah" - See sidebar notes on page 2 & 3 for definition.

Ministry Prayer Requests

Please remember Pray America in your daily prayers. With the spiritual warfare and oppression of the region, the ministry needs your daily prayers for the staff protection and in making a difference for the Kingdom of Jesus.

We could never run the ministry without the cover of prayer. We appreciate every one of your prayers on our behalf.

- Monte Flor funding to continue coming to pay for the new orphan care center
- Funding to continue for the feeding programs, given the new projects
- Prayers for the staff for guidance and protection
- Staff positions open to be filled by the right people that God has for the ministry
- *Optional Team request donation:* 15 twin bed, zippered, cotton mattress covers for Monte Flor



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“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after widows and orphans in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” ~ James 1:27

Pray America is doing it's best to live by the Word in the corner of the world where God has called the ministry, Chichicastenango, Guatemala.



Ministry—FAQ

Q. How many widows are there in the Chichi and surrounding area?

A. Approximately 70,000 in the area, about the size of a county, as a result of the civil war that ended in 1997 as well as a result of the culture of poverty.

Q. How many children are fed by the ministry each week?

A. With three feeding programs in different villages feeding approximately 300+ children each twice a week; 900+ children, or 1800+ meals, are served weekly.



Q. How can I help with the feeding programs?

A. Donations are accepted by the ministry and each \$15 feeds a child twice a week for a month. Donate online at www.prayamerica.org.

Q. Can people come to work alongside Pray America in their serving?

A. Yes. We have a full calendar of week-long mission teams of approximately 15 people each. Go to www.prayamerica.org under Trip Calendar to check for date availability.