

# GUATEMALA 2015

*"Fear thou not; for I am with thee"* (Isaiah 41:10a). Not only did this become our theme verse because we said it so often but because we could sense His presence and feel your prayers as we continued to trust and obey. We and our 11 bags arrived safely, came through customs with no issues, checked into our hotel then off to Walmart to buy rice, beans, oil, sugar and powdered milk to give to families in the dump the next day. While shopping, Carol, the founder of Tabitha House that gives hope to the women and children in the dump, told us about a 14-year-old girl that needed to be rescued from her home. The girl has a new



baby, whose father is either the baby's grandfather or uncle, and the girl is also being abused and sold as a slave. None of us could wrap our minds around this despicable action but as we began to pray, we knew God was with us. Thursday as we were finishing the medical clinic at Tabitha's house, Pastor Todd, Tammy and Cassie went with several of the workers to get the girl then they would transport her to a safe house several hours from her home. They were obviously observant to their surroundings but didn't fear, knowing God was with them each step of the way. Her brother met them outside and said his sister wasn't home so Todd shared the gospel with him. They returned several days later and were told the same thing. They felt she was there but we continue to pray that she and the entire family will be changed with the gospel, our only Hope.



*"Be not dismayed; for I am thy God"* (Isaiah 41:10b). We took a food bag to Jocelyn. While Tammy and I played with her three little boys, Christie shared her testimony while Stephanie translated. Then Christie asked her if she were to die today, where would she go? Jocelyn said, "I would go to hell and that is NOT okay." Christie continued the plan of salvation and led her in prayer asking the Lord to save her. Afterwards, Christie asked, "Where is Jesus now?" Jocelyn said, "En me corazon!" (In my heart). Christie encouraged her that things might not be easy but that God would always be with her. Stephanie commented that Jocelyn's countenance had changed and she encouraged her to attend church, study her Bible and pray. We left her house and went further into the dump. As we walked through the streets with people all around, I realized I should be afraid of the gang members and drug lords that are so prevalent but the fear was replaced with peace knowing God was with us.



*"I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee"* (Isaiah 41:10c) As we climbed the hill to get to the church, we were all breathing a little harder but thrilled to be ministering to the people in San Rafael. We treated people in our medical clinic in the church and also gave them clothes. The sweatshirts and fur lined boots were the first items to go and each of us on the team was wishing we had brought our own sweatshirt since it was much colder than we had expected. I had the privilege of taking this sweet widow a food bag. She was in the room with the fire to keep warm but I couldn't help but notice she was barefoot and coughing. I wanted to measure her foot so Kim put her flashlight to her foot so we could estimate her shoe size. We made that climb back to the church to get her a pair of shoes and cough syrup then returned to her. She was thrilled with her new shoes but didn't care much for the taste of the cough syrup. Our last day in the mountains, Todd, Tammy & Christie continued going house to house giving food in the name of Jesus and sharing the gospel. They went higher and higher in the mountains; only by His strength were they able to go and hear many call upon the name of the Lord.



*"Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness"* (Isaiah 41:10d). Marta (5) & Alejandro (7) lost their mother a few months ago in an accident in the dump where she was buried alive. The children were living with their grandmother who didn't want them so the judge put them in an orphanage. Marta would sit in my lap anytime she could; she just wanted to be loved. I can't understand how a grandmother couldn't love them. When we prayed for them on Sunday, Alejandro put his arm around his little sister. I could tell he had been taking care of her for a while and I thought what a big responsibility for such a young boy but I must trust that God is with them, too! Thank you for your prayers! We know of 22 that prayed to receive Christ and many more heard the Good News. Please pray for our construction crew and medical team leaving for Honduras April 11-18.



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