

Bridges of Grace Ministries—Cantel, Guatemala, C.A.

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Greetings from Guatemala:

STEP BY STEP, we continue to move forward. We are endeavoring to build a strong and solid foundation both spiritually and physically. With the Lord as “the lamp at our feet and the light on our path,” He has promised to “perfect the things which concern me” and that includes this ministry.

To the natural eye, our work here may seem too great, and our progress too slow. Our confidence is in Him, not in me or my abilities, nor in any others. “This is the confidence that we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His Will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us...we know that we have what we asked of Him.” --1 John 5:14-15 My goals and my purpose are in Him. “For in Him we live and move and have our being.” --Acts 17:28.

As His missionary, called to make disciples and to teach His truths, I know of not other way, but to follow Him—**Step by Step-Faith to Faith**—and keep praying for **His Wisdom, His Guidance, by His Grace and for His Glory.**



Stepping stones across the creek remind me of life’s situations. With courage we must cross to the other side. Checking out our obstacles, we plan our moves. We look for the large flat rock with the smooth surface. Life can be like that: the way seems plain and simple—smooth and easy, until we make our move. We discover that step is too slippery—too fast for our feet to get a good grip. We are about to fall, but we must press on. We reach for the next rock and it moves beneath our feet. Arms extended, we reach out to find some balance. We may wait for the rock to settle into the sandy soil of the creek before we make our next move. Sometimes just standing still awhile restores our equilibrium and quiets our sensibilities. We feel more safe and secure. “*You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You: because he trusts in YOU.*” --Psalm 26:3 Or you may decide to make a jump for it. But the next rock is

barely visible. Where do you place your foot? Do you skip that step altogether? While you are jumping and skipping, why not just keep on going? You might make it to the other side, and you might not. Life is like that—full of challenges and hidden surprises that require wisdom and courage to make decisions that keep us moving forward in the right direction—at the right pace. Retreating isn’t an option. Retreat means defeat. However, returning is okay. It’s all about attitude. It’s okay to return to solid ground for a season—to gain strength, to get a tighter grip on God’s plan and step out again in faith and with renewed perspective.

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delights in his way. Though he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord holds him with his hand.” --Psalm 37: 23, 24

We so often take Jesus, our “Rock” for granted. We sing about Him being our “Rock of Ages.” But are we only mouthing the words with no heart behind them. I pray that in these days of such uncertainty, we sing with gusto. It is a geographical fact that living here in Guatemala, there are times when the ground literally shakes beneath my feet. What do I do? I pray “Keep me safe, Lord,” and sometimes I sing; it depends on how long the tremor lasts. I learned a long time ago that Jesus is my Only Hope and the Strong and Mighty Anchor for my soul.

Our Four Pillars of Communication and Commitment

I. Pray II. Prioritize III. Project IV. Partner

“For it is in Him we live and move and have our being. –Acts 17:28”

By the Lord's instructions, I am currently teaching on PRAYER every Saturday in our SCHOOL OF GRACE in Cantel. The Lord confirmed that prayer is to be our number one priority. The Title of our Class is “Lord, teach us to pray.” I began teaching it in January, and I will continue until the Lord instructs me otherwise. We are receiving many testimonies of how this class has affected, not only the lives of the students, but others too. Many have received healing, finances, and families have been changed and marriages restored. This class has challenged me to move to another level of fervency in prayer.

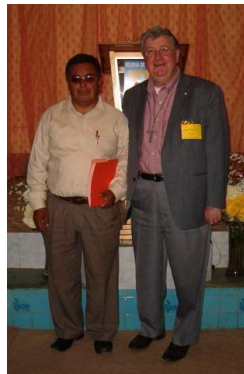
In March, we were privileged to host a team from The Missionary Church International. Bishop Bob Coulter and his precious wife, Ginny, and Connie Kesner ministered right here in the mountains of Cantel. Though they have ministered in many other countries in their travels around the world, it was their first trip to Guatemala. Bishop Bob blessed us with a Leadership Seminar in our School of Grace, Fountain of Grace Church, and in the Church of God. Ginny shared her testimony with an impacting visual of God's Healing Power and Love. Connie preached in power in the churches; to the women at our monthly meeting, and especially to the youth. There were fourteen youth baptized in the Holy Spirit in the Fountain of Grace Church and we had several salvations among the women and many were healed. The wife of the Pastor of the Church of God was healed at our Ladies Meeting and has since been able to be more involved in helping her husband pastor their church.

We also had an Ordination Service for Pastor Antonio Colop, and my dear friend, Maria. Antonio has been studying with us for three years now and from the beginning has shown great interest in being part of our ministry. His congregation was extremely blessed by the TMCI team, especially the leadership and the youth. He is presently holding services in his home, but his church is growing. He has over 65 people in his congregation, most of which are youth and children. He is praying and believing God for land to build. Please include him in your prayers.

We thank God for our partnership with TMCI ministry. Not only did we all receive good teaching from their ministry, but we enjoyed tremendously their warm and loving fellowship. I was personally blessed having them in my home. Connie is a joy and I gleaned wisdom and sound counsel from Bishop Bob and Sister Ginny. Sharing with them brought fresh perspective and renewed purpose to the vision that God by His Precious Holy Spirit has written and sealed within my heart.



Maria & Antonio receive their Certificates.



Pastor Carlos & Bishop Bob



Connie & Carlos minister to the youth.



Ginny Coulter shares her heart visual.



The women enjoy their gifts (heart bracelets).

I thank God for my family and my friends in the U.S.A, here in Guatemala, and those who live in other countries around the world. I appreciate more and more the privilege and the power of prayer. It creates a closer connection to one another and to the One, whose communication channel is always open, no matter the circumstances. His antenna is unhindered by weather reports—His provision unaltered by financial crisis. His love flows—unchangeable, unquenchable, and unending. And He is Abba Padre. What a blessing to be adopted by God, Himself, and have a big brother like Jesus!

Normita’s Story and Baskets of Grace

Recently in church, I met a new member of my large, extended family here in Guatemala. Sophía Noemi was born on April 15th. She was two weeks old when we were officially introduced. Little Sophía was a sweet surprise, and from what her mother Normita shared, not just to me.

At first, I thought Sophía was a boy. She was all wrapped up in blue. As I peeked into her petite face, it was like seeing her older brother Marcos Rafael in his first weeks. He will be five in August. Small for his age, he looks like he is only three. I didn’t ask Normita why Sophía was dressed in blue. In my heart, I knew. Sophía is number eight. I remembered how hard it was for Normita when she was pregnant with Marcos—not just physically, but financially and emotionally. We stood in the doorway of the church that Sunday, remembering and talking a little about the beginning of our friendship and our relationship in Christ.

It was during those difficult times, Normita began attending the Women’s Bible Class I was teaching at Living Water Teaching Church. She shared with me some of her problems and asked for prayer. Her husband was not attending the church at that time and complained that she was. She never criticized her husband, but prayed consistently for his heart to soften. Neither was he happy about the baby. They already had seven children (five girls-two boys) and their needs were great. Normita, undaunted with her already heavy work load of not only caring and cooking for her family, sold tortillas and tacos to substantiate their income. From our first meeting, the Lord put it in my heart that I should help this woman and her family. Just as the Lord adopted me into His family, Normita and I adopted each other. I received the best of this divine connection—my family increased immediately and immensely.

From the beginning I saw in this woman such love for her husband and her children that she would do anything to help them grow up healthy—spirit-soul-and body. God’s Timing is so perfect for that was part of the main theme of our Bible Class. Normita eagerly and faithfully attended when possible.

For one of the classes, the Lord instructed me to invite the women to my house for prayer and do things a little differently. He didn’t share all the surprises He was about to spring on us, until all the women arrived. We had over 30 eager women in attendance that day. It was a different kind of a meeting, even for me. But I knew the Holy Spirit was in charge and so did the women. We entered into prayer like never before. And then I called for a basin filled with water and some towels. In obedience to the Lord, I knelt and prayed over each woman and washed her feet. The Spirit of God filled the room. It humbled me and filled me with an overwhelming compassionate love for my sisters in Christ. As each woman entered into a Spirit of Worship in their own way, the Lord increased the anointing on me and filled me with prophetic words for some of the women.

Normita was chosen by the Lord that day to receive a wonderful prophecy, not only for the child within

Please have your prayer ministry team agree with me in prayer for the following requests: _____

“...Prayer offered in faith will heal the sick and the Lord will make them well. And anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven...The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.” –James 5: 15, 16b [TLB]

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her womb, but for her entire family. This is part of the prophecy: “This child will bring changes to your family for healing and for prosperity. So pray and choose his name wisely for his name will have great significance. He will bring your family closer together and he will be instrumental in changing the heart of his father.”

When the baby was born, I eagerly awaited to hear his name. I knew the Lord’s Hand was upon him. Norma shared that they had prayed and were calling him Marcos Rafael.

And the Lord spoke again: “Tell them that this child’s name has great significance for the symbol of the name “Marcos” based on Mark, the disciple of Christ, means to be strong as an Ox—to be persistent and to endure—to keep going against all obstacles. The name Rafael comes from the root “rapha” which refers in part to the name of the Lord, Jehovah Rapha, “The Lord My Healer.” The Lord said “He has healing in his hands.”

Small in size and stature, Marcos, in the natural, bears nothing comparable to that of an Ox. But in his spirit he is a feisty and fearless. He is also a little charmer with his flashing black eyes and happy grin. For such a little fellow, he gives a gripping hug.

Normita was one of the first women to receive our Baskets of Grace. Filled with much-needed baby items, she received it with great joy. Over the years, she has received a variety of baskets of food, and gifts for the entire family and just last week, she received another one, perfectly pink. The family gathered round as she opened it. Her husband was there too, smiling and happy. He attends church now. He is an iron worker and jobs are more frequent. Normita said that the first Basket of Grace was the key that touched her husband’s heart and turned their family toward a closer walk with the Lord.

But before I get too puffed up about how great the idea for the Baskets of Grace is and how great it works etc. etc., the Lord reminded me that it was His Idea originally—and of course it works. He fed the thousands and more. (Mathew 14:17-21, Mark 6:34-44. Mark 8:1-10, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-15)

“In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” I Cor. 13:1” I am just glad to be included in the same testifying team as those guys.

“Jesus, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” --Hebrews 13:8



Normita, Husband & Sophia



Opening Gifts



Marcos Rafael



Most of the Family

Thank you so much for all you do bless the people of Guatemala who give thanks to God for your faithfulness.

As God blesses me I desire to give to Bridges of Grace Ministries. I want to have a part in crossing the bridges into other countries and cultures with the truth of Jesus Christ bringing healing and restoration to all who will receive.

Name _____

Make checks payable to *Bridges of Grace Ministries*

Address _____

and mail to: *Bridges of Grace Ministries*

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

c/o Bernice Trask

Phone No. _____

275 S. Stewart St.

Email _____

Blairsville, PA 15717

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that in all things in all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”
 —II Corinthians 9:7, 8 (NIV)

In partnership with *Bridges of Grace Ministries*, I enclose a love gift to help carry the Gospel to Central America and beyond. One time gift of \$ _____ Monthly Commitment of Faith \$ _____ **PROJECTS 2009 \$ _____**