



# Guatemala Field Director's Update

## The fields are ripe in Guatemala!

2016-17 has been a year of rapid growth and preparation for the future of the Kids Alive ministry in Guatemala. **God has challenged us to rely on Him through many unforeseen, sometimes tragic circumstances, but each one has brought confirmation that He holds our work in His hands.**

We continue to work with the Guatemalan government and other NGOs in effecting change to the country's child care laws and safeguards. Currently only 6% of sexual crimes here result in prosecution, but in the past three years, 70% of Oasis girls have seen their aggressor placed behind bars. And we want to see those numbers increase.

In March, 41 girls lost their lives in a fire at a government orphanage, leading to hundreds of children being reintegrated into other, sometimes even less safe, situations. At Oasis, we responded by rapidly preparing our La Arquilla program to take five girls from a government home, three with babies and one expecting. We are also working to help children reunited by the government into at-risk situations. **Oasis continues to be a leader in Guatemala for the care and support of victims of sexual abuse.**




The girls at Oasis can't, of course, stay with us indefinitely, but moving to independence, especially with a baby, is a struggle for most of these girls. Our tiered approach to this transition is bearing fruit and has become an example to other ministries as well. And we've now broken ground on an expansion of our Casa Ester independence program. As we strive for excellence in our programs, we are strengthening our commitment to family-based care. We are launching a foster family program to complement our family reunification program, Oasis Keeping Families Together.

Our work with impoverished children and families in the town of Zapote has taken on added dimension as we have established an economic empowerment program. We have leased 88 acres of land and then sub-leased it to area families to grown corn for income production. The village is very happy with the opportunities this provides and is looking forward to expanding the program and creating even more hope.

**Your support through this year has allowed us to walk through difficult waters with the assurance that God will provide all we need. Thank you for your prayers as Oasis grieved the death of our fellow missionary, Joshua Ma, and as we seek justice for the children of Oasis and Source of Hope. Your gifts, your prayers, your participation on Service Teams, and your faithfulness in spreading the word about the work here sustain and nourish us.**

On behalf of all the Kids Alive staff and hundreds of precious kids, thank you.

  
Corbey Dukes  
Field Director, Guatemala

### Looking back and thanking God...

- We completed our second house of the La Arquilla program and are now full with child-moms and their babies
- 15 girls were baptized at Oasis
- 100% of Oasis girls passed their grade, 54% with 80+ average
- We responded to a crisis that led to us taking in five girls from a government home
- Of the 164 registered children's homes in Guatemala, Oasis is one of only 39 that have passed government inspection and accreditation
- We hosted training for 114 judges, prosecutors, and workers in the child care system
- We accepted four young ladies from other ministries who had turned 18 and had nowhere else to go as they transitioned to independence
- We established an economic empowerment program in Zapote, helping impoverished families grow corn to sell and building ties with the community

**Thank you for being part of His harvest in Guatemala, redeeming and restoring the lives and hopes of children who, without you, would have no one to believe in them!**

### Looking forward in faith to...

- Launching a foster family program under the umbrella of Oasis. The goal is to develop a program that will place adolescents in families who are screened, trained, and supervised by Oasis. This is a major step forward in Oasis' goal of family-based care.
- Expanding empowerment programs in Zapote where our Source of Hope School is located. We want to enable families in this village to lift themselves out of deep poverty as they are discipled and come to know Jesus.
- Planning for a third La Arquilla home. We could immediately fill several more homes if funding becomes available.

### Looking to God in prayer for...

- Safety as we minister to girls from high-risk situations, that God would protect the girls and our staff seeking justice for them
- Discernment in the economic empowerment program, seeking to move impoverished people away from simply desiring charity and toward self-sufficiency
- Spiritual growth of staff and children in difficult circumstances, that they would grow to see their life story in the story of Jesus' redemption of the world

***"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*** Matt. 9:38 (NIV)



Oasis and La Arquilla

