

Matthew Empowering Children **25:40** to Escape Poverty through Education

I have had the privilege to serve as the Chair for one of the most dynamic and God-filled organizations – Matthew 2540. Those who have served along with me on this board have truly exhibited a heart to serve, putting aside their own interests, time and resources so that these incredible children in Guatemala can have a hope and a future. I have had the privilege to speak with many of you who have given generously to this ministry and prayed for everyone who has been on this list of donors. You are truly the backbone that holds up a lot of kids for a brighter tomorrow. I cannot say thanks enough for the selfless work of this board or for the generous support of all of you who gave this past year. The future is bright and I pray for more people like you and more resource like what you have given, for the sole purpose that this allows Jesus to touch more and more lives with hope and a future.

Perhaps the greatest privilege I have had is to consider the eyes of the children at La Promesa School in Chimaltenango, Guatemala. They are the beneficiaries of the love we have all poured out. However, when I stand and kneel among them in each of their classrooms and share encouragement – I cannot help but feel that I am the main beneficiary. My heart wells with love and joy in the privilege of what we get a chance to do.

I have spent numerous days with Pastor Erika Chajon and her lovely family. They, along with others, pour out long hours, endless energy, exhausted resources to care, educate and protect these vulnerable children. They do it with such love, conviction and passion in their hearts. I have known them for over 14 years and they are like family. If you ever get a chance to meet them (and I hope you will) it will be like being in the presence of Jesus. They are broken, poured out and all in. That is why we, as a board of Matthew 2540, are all in and why we are so thankful that you as donors have joined with us.

This past year has been a good year. Our financial resources to make a difference in these children's lives are continuing to grow as you will see in the financial report. As it is with any young organization, the needs are still far greater than the resource. We still have work to do. There are more children to reach, there is land needing to be purchased and eventually school buildings to be built. We know it is all in God's timing. For now, we stretch the resources given and steward them well in staffing teachers, providing meals, supplies and upkeeping the temporary spaces currently occupied.

Please continue to be in prayer with us in 2018 for this amazing ministry. As God leads your heart, give as you are able. Share with others what you are doing. Consider a trip to explore, see or help. Most importantly, thank God for what He has given to you. We are thankful that God has shared you with these children through your giving and time.