

# Matthew 25:40

## "Empowering Children to Escape Poverty through Education" 2015 Annual Report

It has been my pleasure to serve with a team of incredibly gifted and passionate people to make a difference in the world through the development of Matthew2540 over the past year. Through their service and your generous contributions, we have been able to positively impact the lives of impoverished children and families in Guatemala. Matthew2540 is now a recognized 501c(3) with a board of 9 individuals and representatives from supporting congregations who are passionate about its mission. Additional highlights from our first year:

1. The K-8<sup>th</sup> grade school operated by Pastor Erika, as an outreach ministry to the impoverished community served by her church Odres Nuevos, is now financially stable. Our first year operating budget was \$40,000. In order to increase teacher salaries to \$150/month, it will be \$50,000 in 2016.
2. We are providing Pastor Erika's family a measure of security with a salary of \$150/month allowing her to focus on ministering to her community and not worrying about their next meal. (Her members have average daily incomes of \$1.00, thus offerings are minimal and her prior salary zero.)
3. The school and daycare are serving 60 children. Many of them have not attended school regularly before because their families could not afford it.
4. Most of the children are malnourished. The 30 children attending daycare this past year received 2 meals a day.
5. Our 2015 medical team provided checkups to the children as well as family members and others in the community. Vision was corrected through reading glasses. Schoolwork improved and adults could return to previous vocations.
6. We are assisting the school leadership to budget and track expenses, requiring students and families to sign contracts emphasizing the importance of attendance at school and church, and developing a counseling program with funding to provide high school or vocational training as appropriate.
7. Our website: Matthew2540.net is now live and able to accept donations.
8. The next immediate challenge is to raise \$250,000 to purchase land in the area on which to build a permanent facility. (The church owning the land where we currently operate is not willing to sign a long-term lease nor give us any remuneration for buildings built by previous mission teams.)

It is through your donations that all these things have been possible. We ask that you prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be His hands and feet and to share this information with others who may be called to help as well so that we can keep this ministry moving forward.

Matthew2540 Board: Craig Bollinger, Cammie Berger, Damaris Alvizures, John Kuhn, Adriana Romero, Mark and Karen Bollinger, Brack East, Lynn Isenhower