

Faith In Practice

Life Changing Medical Mission

Enfolded: César and Geovanni



Geovanni's shoulders were slightly stooped, the only sign of the weight that this young man bore. As he bowed his head, he placed his right hand lightly on the wheelchair's bright blue handle. The wheelchair that now enfolded his father, César.

I began to pray. Almost immediately, Geovanni began to join me, our words intermingling, and the distance between us, the size of the small screen, the slight pixilation, the echo in the Casa de Fe, melted away. All obstacles, gone. I was back in Guatemala.

As I slowed and ended my prayer, overcome, Geovanni

Las Obras: The Most Vulnerable



We have heard it time and time again, COVID-19 wreaks havoc on the most vulnerable. Now, we are seeing it in a very stark and painful way. There is a COVID-19 outbreak in La Virgen de Socorro, the Obras' home for the 'incapacitated and abandoned.' But these nearly 300 residents are not abandoned.

[Read more](#)

Send Encouragement



Guatemala needs us, now more than ever. We invite you to [send a message](#) of encouragement to the Franciscan brothers, our Guatemalan volunteers, or

continued. “Lord, thank you for your infinite mercy. For your love. For your strength. For these people. Give them strength, Lord.” His voice quickened and grew louder. I stopped listening to his words and allowed the feeling to wash over me. Then the tears began to flow. César brushed a tear from his cheek. Geovanni’s tears flowed freely down his face as he spoke to, as he spoke with, his God.

César had suffered a debilitating stroke five years ago at the age of 55. Since that time, he had lived with Geovanni and his young family. Without a wheelchair. Without a means of independence for himself or independence for his faithful son. This chair changed the lives of the entire family in an instant.

It was very clear to me, however, in those prayerful moments, that César and Geovanni were not considering what this chair would mean practically for their lives. Instead, they were giving thanks for this sign of God’s faithfulness, this gift of God’s presence in their lives. That is what the wheelchair represented. On that day, they knew themselves to be enfolded in God’s love.

We have been forced to suspend the majority of operations in Guatemala due to COVID-19. We have laid off 65% of our staff. Those who remain in Guatemala feel that their hands are tied in so many ways because of understandable restrictions enacted by Guatemalan authorities. Tied, those of us currently unable to travel to Guatemala. Tied, as the need grows exponentially within Guatemala each day, spreading faster than the virus itself. It weighs upon us, within us, like a physical ache. We are used to seeing thousands upon thousands of patients. On that day, we saw only five.

And, yet, on that day, I realized just how important what we *can* do is. The pressures upon those we see are greater than ever before, which means that what we can provide brings greater relief than ever before. I realized that although we cannot see the same numbers of patients as we typically do, this does not diminish for one second the impact on those we can see. In fact, it increases it.

our staff.

[Read more about how the mission continues](#)

Thank you to the Askenasy Team



We celebrate the amazing Askenasy Team! After their trip was cancelled, they came together to unlock a matching gift generously donated to Faith In Practice. Funds raised will support our ongoing work. Thank you, Askenasy Team!

Make Your Next Zoom from Guatemala



Make your next video call more fun with a background from one of your favorite places in Guatemala!

[See them all and download your favorite](#)

Guatemala Update



Guatemala, currently, is

As I closed my laptop and brushed my own tears from my face, I squared my shoulders. God had already answered Geovanni's prayer that we would be strengthened. I knew then that we would not be overwhelmed by the growing need, but rather strengthened by Geovanni's prayer, and the prayers of those who we can treat even in the face of this growing need. I left those moments reminded, yet again, of God's faithful calling upon us to serve. Energized by the ways we are reimagining mission as we meet the challenges before us and plan for the future. Blessed by the incredible privilege it is to be a part of this mission. This mission that binds us together and that allows us to suddenly find ourselves enfolded in God's love.

Please see how we are continuing the mission [here](#). We are doing more each month, as circumstances allow, even as we continue to develop new ways of serving in the future, all made possible by your support.

Thank you for being a part of this work that is a daily witness to God's faithfulness.

God's faithfulness to our patients. God's faithfulness to us all.

Rev. Linda L. McCarty
President & CEO

on significant lockdown. As always, Guatemalans continue to show a depth of faith that inspires.

[Read more](#)

Let Us Pray for You



We invite you to share your concerns and celebrations with our team who will pray over your requests daily.

Send your prayer requests to prayer@faithinpractice.org.



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