



PURE RELIGION IS THIS: TO VISIT THE FATHERLESS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR AFFLICTION . . . JAMES 1:27

# Guatemala Children's Mission Newsletter

News from Agua Viva Children's Home, Guatemala, Central America

Nov. 2015

## An Aspiring Engineer

At this year's *National Math Competition* hosted by Burger King, Agua Viva was one of only two schools in our entire district to have a student qualify for the national level competition. Oliver Stefan Tsirin Abaj is one of our 7th grade scholarship students. Like most boys, Oliver loves to play soccer, but he also has big dreams of one day becoming an electrical engineer. In a society where few students ever make it through college, we hope to help him achieve his dream of becoming an engineer.



Oliver is also one of many scholarship students still in need of a sponsor to help cover his school tuition. If you are interested in providing a scholarship to Oliver or other students like him, please email [aguavivaschoolships@gmail.com](mailto:aguavivaschoolships@gmail.com).

## A Melody of Opportunities

Profe Reynaldo has made a huge investment in our students this past year through his music classes and has even started an orchestra. The Agua Viva orchestra was



invited to play for a special Mother's Day event as well as perform at the main Chimaltenango government building. We love seeing students grow in their love for music and hope these skills will open their minds to a world of new possibilities.

If you are interested in donating musical instruments, the orchestra needs violins and flutes as well as a few wireless microphones and a head set microphone.

## Bible Week

Pastor Dave coordinated our first ever *Bible Week* for all students at the school. Activities included *Bible trivia* and *sword drill* competitions as well as singing, dancing, and instrumental performances. The events emphasized biblical values and the students' God given talents.



## Middle School Science Fair

This year the Agua Viva Middle School hosted its second annual science fair. The children were excited to present their projects and we invited several guest judges. Projects included a baking soda volcano and a bottle rocket. The winning projects were a skewered balloon that didn't pop and a fire retardant for the hands.

The science fair was a huge success and we are proud of all the hard work the students put into their projects.





## Special Message from the Director

(Submitted by Joel Eduardo Taquirá, Agua Viva School Director; translated)

On behalf of Agua Viva Christian School and all our teachers, we want to thank everyone who has given to this ministry. You have become a part of the lives of our students, whether younger or older, as well as our teachers. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your faithful support this 2015 school year. May God light your way and bless your families and work. May he strengthen you and give you good health as you go forward and encourage one another.

A thousand thanks and may God keep you safe.

## Passing On a Love for Robotics

This year we were blessed to have the *Terabytes*, a youth robotics team from Pennsylvania, come and train a group of our students in robotics building and programming. The students love to explore practical applications of building and programming robots to preform specific tasks. Along with our computer teacher, they are now sharing their new skills with other students in middle school. Our students hope to continue growing the program and maybe even compete in local *Lego League* competitions in the future.



## Connecting to the World Wide Web

Most children in our school don't have access to a computer, much less internet access. But now a few of the computers in our computer lab are equipped with a USB modem that connects to the internet. We are training our 9th graders to safely navigate and utilize the internet.

The internet opens up a world of learning possibilities and is now an essential part of many jobs in Guatemala. We hope to expand the number of internet connections in the computer lab in the future.



## Scholastic Olympics

The Agua Viva School recently hosted a *Scholastic Olympics*, which included six other schools. Several of these schools are well-known locally for their academics. Our elementary students tied for first place and our middle school students easily took first place. We are so very proud of our students and teachers!



## School Uniforms - Help Needed

School uniforms are a requirement for children in schools in Guatemala and throughout Central America. After years of use, we need to replace and update uniforms for children attending the Agua Viva School. Our school has an excellent reputation within the local community, and the new uniforms will reinforce the quality education we provide.

For the 70 or so children from the home that will attend the school next year, the total expense will be around \$3,700. Uniforms are a big expense for the home, and so we need your help to have our children ready for the next school year.

If you would like to donate toward this need, please send a check or donate online along with a note indicating that the donation is for "uniforms".





# The Agua Viva School—2015



Elementary School (above)



Middle School (above)



## Thanks for your Partnership!

Those of us serving on the board of the Guatemala Children's Mission would like to thank you for the many ways you have supported the ministry at Agua Viva in 2015. Many of you have personally visited the home and school and worked tirelessly for the benefit of the children and staff. Others have faithfully supported the ministry financially and through prayer. A significant number of you have supported the ministry in all these ways. Please know your partnership in the Lord's work at Agua Viva is much appreciated.

Many of you also know that we have high year-end expenses at the home and school, and need special financial gifts to maintain a reasonable financial reserve to consistently meet payroll and cover other critical expenses. *Would you consider a special year-end gift to the Guatemala Children's Mission?* Checks can be sent to P.O. Box 398, Spicer, MN 56288-0398. Donations can also be made online at [aguavivahome.org](http://aguavivahome.org).

Thanks to all of you who support Agua Viva!

Chris Gault  
President, Guatemala Children's Mission



## Independence Day Activities

In honor of Guatemala's Independence Day, we planned a number of exciting activities. We hosted a traditional race where we carried a symbolic, lighted torch from the town of Patzicia all the way back to the



school. Once at Agua Viva, we joined a parade through the town and sponsored a fair with local families and friends, celebrating with games and food.



## Picnic at the Ruins

We love to bless our children by providing occasional opportunities to see and appreciate different parts of their beautiful country. A recent example was a trip for our younger children to see the Iximche, the Mayan ruins in Tecpan.



Thanks to our friends at *Mission Fiesta*, we were also able to treat them to a yummy picnic lunch from *Pollo Campero*!

## Meet the Staff: Profe Giovanni

*Profe Giovanni Saj Quiej* has been part of the Agua Viva family for almost eleven years. He started out working as a house parent and then served as an assistant accountant. Now Giovanni coordinates and oversees all the house parents and is in charge of making sure the children get the best care possible.



*Profe Giovanni* has much love for the children and sees himself as a parental figure for them. It is this love and his desire to see the children succeed in life after they leave the home that has kept him serving here for so many years. His biggest prayer is for the spiritual lives of each child under his care. Giovanni now lives on campus with his wife, Zoila, and his two sons, Giovanni (15) and Diego (7).

## Guatemala Children's Mission

**Scheduling Teams:** John Salisbury— [avmissions@gmail.com](mailto:avmissions@gmail.com)  
**Child Sponsorship:** Jennifer Spencer— [avsponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:avsponsorship@gmail.com)

If you do not receive acknowledgement of your contribution, please contact Tom Maloney at [maloney\\_thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:maloney_thomas@yahoo.com).

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