



2020

ANNUAL REPORT



... Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?"

Esther 4:14

LIVING WATER WORLD MISSIONS

01/01/2020

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CEO Statement

I would like to begin by saying that absolutely nothing that has happened this year, not the COVID 19 pandemic, not the closing of international borders, the disruption of mission travel, or any of the restrictions that have been imposed upon us to combat the virus, nothing, not one thing, came as a surprise to God.

Our theme for this year has been, "For such a time as this".

It is from a verse in the book of Ester, in which Mordecai said

"If you don't do anything at this time, relief and deliverance will rise from another place, And who knows whether you have not come to the **kingdom for such a time as this?**" (Esther 4:14).

Let me share with you a story that began several years ago.

Our organization, Living Water World Missions, was established as a legal nonprofit according to the laws of our country. Our express purpose is to share the Gospel of Christ, through the building of clean drinking water filtration systems, in places that lacked access to clean drinking water. But our primary goal, as my friend Jim Pitkin has stated on many occasions, is to make the name of Jesus famous.

The Lord opened the door for us to go primarily into Guatemala, and led us to establish a series of long term relationships with a multitude of Churches, Schools, Orphanages, and Medical Clinics where we were successful in not only building clean drinking water systems for those communities, but also in sharing the story of Christ.

Over time our commitments grew to the point where we had to expand our operations and hire four of the most amazing individuals in Guatemala that you could ever imagine, to assist us in the work in that country. Those four amazing individuals, Josué, Cesia, Gaby and Eswin, are the backbone of all of our operations in Guatemala.

A few years ago we felt that the Lord was telling us we needed to establish a separate nonprofit, under the laws of Guatemala, that could operate independently of our stateside organization.

The process of doing so was time consuming and required quite a bit of "thinking outside the box", as well as education on the part of our Board and our Staff. But, after many long months of effort, we were successful and

“Asociacion Mision Mundial de Agua Viva Guatemala”, finally received its charter from the Guatemalan Government.

Under the Lords guidance, we started the process of building a supply chain to move filters in bulk and other systems parts from the US into Guatemala.

Little did we realize at that time why God was leading us in this direction.

Last January our Board met with our Staff, who are also the Board of the Guatemalan nonprofit, to plan our work for the coming year. We had a list of over 15 sites to consider for water system installations, and many other things to plan for as well.

Well, long story made short, our carefully considered plans kind of evaporated in March when international travel into Guatemala was curtailed. Not only that, but in Guatemala draconian measures were put in place designed to combat the spread of the COVID virus. People could not travel from one Department to another or, leave the city that they lived in. The entire county was locked down from Friday evening to Monday morning and a curfew from 4PM to 7AM on other days was rigidly enforced. All shopping, including for food, was restricted to the hours of 8:00AM to noon. All schools were closed, and so were all the churches.

The Government, anticipating that the county would soon be overwhelmed with COVID cases, decided to build a series of regional hospitals solely to treat COVID cases. And because the Lord had allowed our Guatemalan nonprofit to be established, the Government was in a position to request help from the nonprofit, to build clean water systems in those hospitals. Additionally, our Staff received authorization, for such a time as this; to travel throughout the country, to not only build the new hospital systems but to also maintain our existing water systems.

Since we could not send Teams, carrying supplies into Guatemala as we would normally do, we used the supply chain that the Lord has us develop for such a time as this, to send a number of complete clean water systems, ones that you donated, from the US into Guatemala, on an expedited basis, to allow those hospital installations to take place.

Because of your faithfulness we were able to continue to serve Gods kingdom in this time of difficult circumstance.



Mark Vaniel



January Retreat:

On January 7th, 8th and 9th, 2020, we had our first combined Board and Staff Retreat in Guatemala City. There were seven main themes of discussion:

Agenda:

1. Our Mission, Process and Purpose
2. 2020 Budget
3. Gospel
4. How can we get/keep our education team more involved in what we are doing?
5. How can we be more involved with the people in the church where the installation takes place?
6. Cuba
7. Short and long term vision for the organization(s)

During the Retreat, it was apparent that God was clearly leading us in a certain direction. It was clear that God was bringing us back to our original purpose, which was to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in the context of installing water purification systems. To be able to redirect our steps, the following was decided.

1. Team members should receive our Mission, Process and Purpose presentation before taking part on a Mission trip.
2. To re-structure the installation week to be able to emphasize the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus, and becoming more intentional with activities that would allow us to share Jesus with the project site participants and their community.
3. To have follow-up activities in selected sites, with a focus on Gospel sharing activities, using their clean water systems as a tool to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in objective ways.

To accomplish objective #2, we decided to implement a new installation week structure with the next installation trip, which was scheduled to take place on March 23-26. This was going to be a pilot project that would help us to make decisions for future installations. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, that trip, as well as all of our other scheduled installation trips had to be cancelled.

To accomplish objective #3, our LWWM staff scheduled a meeting with Pastors from a selected number of sites, where they were invited to join with us in this vision for this year 2020.



LWWM January Retreat

Meeting with Pastors about the Gospel:

On Friday, February 21st our Living Water World Missions staff had a meeting with Pastors from different several different sites in Xela, Totonicapán, San Marcos, Huehuetenango and Suchitepéquez. The purpose of this meeting with the Pastors and church leaders was to share with them the vision that God given to the staff and Board of Directors during our Annual January Retreat. These pastors and church leaders have dedicated their lives to sharing the gospel in their communities, and we wanted their wisdom. In all, 57 people attended the meeting, and we agreed that it was a good time not only to share this important information, but also a way to re-connect with them. The session with these pastors was a success. During the meeting different groups shared their own experiences about sharing the Gospel, and they shared many ideas about activities that can be implemented to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our plan was to start coordinating with them to carry out these activities in the different communities throughout the year, but due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and the restrictions in Guatemala, we have had to postpone these planned activities.



Installation in Santiago de Cuba:

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic taking hold in the United States and shutting down international travel for much of North America, we were able to send one installation team, in February 2020, to the "Cuarta Iglesia Bautista Bethel" church in Santiago de Cuba. Little did we know at that time, that this would be our only team of North Americans completing an installation in 2020. But the Lord knew the challenges that were yet to come and He provided this opportunity before doors would be closed. Not only was a new water system installed on that trip, but also important training and a years worth of replacement parts were delivered on that trip to support our different system partners through the remainder of 2020. On the trip we had 7 team members, all from California, ranging in age from 30 to 70, in addition to the support of our Guatemalan Staff: Josué Yax and Gabriela Villatoro.

System sponsors: Gateway Church of Visalia and King City Presbyterian Church in Missouri



Installations in COVID-19 Hospitals:

In early 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the world, the Government of Guatemala published the “State of Public Calamity” on March 13. This decree imposed many restrictions inside the country, affecting almost every activity including international travel. The cancellation of international flights and a strict curfew were the most drastic measures that affected Living Water World Missions and our schedule of planned installations.

The Decree forced us to stop what we were doing, cancel all of our planned trips, and wait to see how the situation would develop in both countries. It also meant a cancellation of regular maintenance visits to our site partners due to the restrictions on interdepartmental travel in Guatemala. There were an abundance of positive COVID 19 cases in the Central regions of Guatemala, and the Government came to the realization that this pandemic could spread all over the country with devastating consequences. So, the Government ordered the construction of several Regional Hospitals to treat all the COVID-19 infected people and in that way prevent those patients from spreading the infection to other people in other public or private hospitals.

After some time and knowing that the situation was going to get worse, Josué Yax, our National Director in Guatemala, became involved in discussions with Government officials who were in charge of building the new COVID-19 hospitals. This is when we recognized God’s hands leading and directing our efforts to those places that He had prepared for us.



First Hospital Installation; Santa Elena, Petén

Josué was able to speak with the Colonel in charge of the North Air Command in Petén, where the construction of one of the hospitals to treat COVID-19 patients was underway. Josué informed the Colonel that the Living Water World Missions organizations would contribute to the needs arising from this pandemic by installing a water purification system at the hospital that would provide purified water for all personnel within the military base as well as for the hospital patients and hospital staff. The Colonel was grateful for this help and saw to it that all the necessary arrangements were made so that the installation in Petén could become a reality; including the issue of permits so that our staff could move freely within the country without restrictions.

On April 13th, our staff traveled from Sololá to Petén, with all the equipment necessary to build and install the water system at the hospital thanks to the travel permits given issued to them by the Military Authorities. Eswin and Josué modified the design of the system to be able to install it in the space provided. The system was installed in the base kitchen adjacent to the new hospital, so that the water could be used by all the base personnel as well as the patients and staff at the hospital. With the help of local system operators drawn from other systems we have installed in area churches, the water system was installed in four days. Additionally, and most importantly, connections were established between our local church partners and the Base Commander, who welcomed our partners and opened the base to them for evangelization purposes, a pattern that has been replicated at each subsequent installation.



On the day that the installation was started, the President of Guatemala, Alejandro Giammattei, visited the Hospital in the Petén and was introduced to Josué. The President told Josué that Living Water World Missions was the only non-profit to offer assistance to Guatemala during this difficult time. Josué informed the President that we would commit to installing a water system at each of the hospitals that would be built to treat COVID 19 patients. The President was very surprised and grateful and pledged that his Government would assist us in anyway needed. Together it was agreed that we would install two more systems at hospitals under construction in Zacapa and in Escuintla. The Government agreed to expedite the process for the importation all needed system supplies for the hospital installations, and allow our staff to move freely within the country to effect those installations. It was a great experience to have this conversation with the President of Guatemala who is totally committed to do as much as possible to protect the people and minimize the damage caused by this pandemic.



Josué meeting with President Alejandro Giammattei

Second Hospital Installation: Estanzuela, Zacapa



On May 14th our staff traveled to Zacapa, after receiving the system components that had been shipped into Guatemala from the United States. They had with them the necessary military permits, which allowed them to drive around without restriction. The next morning they met with the architect in charge of construction of the Hospital in Estanzuela, Zacapa. The hospital was being constructed by military authorities in a former commercial property. After introductions, they inspected the installation area in the kitchen and determined that everything had been prepared for the installation as Josué had previously requested. Health Department paperwork was completed to confirm that the water system being installed was a donation from Living Water World Missions. Unexpectedly, the night before the installation took place, the entire Country became subject to a 24-hour shut down, imposed by the President, in an effort to control the spread of COVID-19. This caused all hardware stores in the

Country to be closed. Our staff needed the help of the Military and Civil authorities to find a store that could sell them some needed supplies so the hospital system could be installed. After some difficulty the needed supplies were located and purchased and the construction of the system was completed.

All of the Civil and Military authorities involved with this hospital project were impressed and extremely thankful for the system. It was discovered that no other water treatment options existed in the area and without the installation of this water system the hospital would have been forced to purchase purified water at great expense. They expressed great gratitude to our staff and to every donor that made this installation possible.



Third Hospital Installation; Escuintla

The third and final system installed at a COVID-19 hospital in Guatemala was installed during the first week of October by our staff and local church partners. This system is located in Escuintla, south of Guatemala City. This hospital has the capacity to treat more than 200 patients, and has approximately 150 staff on site.



WORK AT THE MILITARY BASE IN ZACAPA

On April 17th our staff were invited to visit the military base in Zacapa in preparation for the work that was to be done building the water system at the COVID-19 Hospital located nearby.

Upon arrival the Colonel in charge of the Military Base received them. He shared with them the problems they were having with the water system located on the military base. Josué and Eswin examined the system and then went to work, repairing the systems pump, deep cleaning all the system components, removing nonworking accessories and adding a UV disinfection unit. They performed maintenance upon the water softeners that had previously been installed, but had never been used. A soldier was assigned to be the operator of the water system and he was present with our staff during the entire process, receiving instruction and learning how to properly use and maintain the equipment. At the end of the visit the system was fully functional and running properly. This was well received because they immediately started using the water in that very moment to cook dinner for the soldiers on the base. Everyone involved was incredibly grateful because they normally used untreated water straight from the faucet, not because they wanted to, but because that is what they had.

Working with the Military and with Government Officials opened many doors for Living Water World Missions operations in Guatemala. The experiences we've had are incredible. We can see how God has been in control from the beginning and this was part of His will for us to work and share the Gospel. We look forward to continuing with the partnership that we now have with the Government authorities and we will surely continue to work with them as God leads us.





Military Base, Zacapa

Import of systems and parts to Guatemala:

The lockdown that occurred early in 2020 did not allow Living Water World Missions to send any Installation Teams into Guatemala. This presented a new challenge to the Organization since Teams had historically been used to bring replacement parts and filters into the Country to resupply our partners there.

When we were presented with the opportunity to build three new system, in the three new hospitals being built to provide treatment for COVID-19 cases, we had to come up with a “new plan” to get those systems into the Country and also provide the 300 needed replacement filters to guarantee the continued operations of our partners water systems.

So, we went to work and contracted with a cargo company to send into Guatemala the systems needed for the Hospital Installations. Here we found out that it was absolutely critical and essential to have had a nonprofit established in Guatemala to serve as the legal entity responsible for completing the import process. Establishing the Guatemalan Non-Profit had been a project that the Lord had us undertake two years ago. It was clear to us that doing so was preparation for such a time as this. Additionally, we saw how the Guatemalan Authorities supported us in fulfilling the import process quicker than normal so as to be able to have the systems arrive on time for the installations in the hospitals. And not only that, but we were granted a complete tax exemption for the systems imported into Guatemala.

After sending the water purification systems that were installed in the Hospitals, we proceeded to send three other shipments including a whole pallet of filters (300 filters approximately 1000 pounds) as well as several cases and cartons of other necessary parts to our warehouse in Guatemala. These filters and parts will supply all our replacement needs in Guatemala for one year. This was a completely new experience for us; there were lessons learned and challenges faced, but it was a good opportunity for us to learn and get to know a new way to send needed equipment into Guatemala to provide for our system partners.



VIDEO TUTORIALS:

National restrictions limited the ability of our LWWM staff in Guatemala to travel to and visit our existing partner sites. This had an impact on their ability to perform routine and necessary maintenance to our existing water systems. But, seeing the need of our partners for ongoing instruction on the operation of their water purification systems and perform routine maintenance on those systems, our staff sized the opportunity to support our system partners virtually. Josué Yax, our National Director and Eswin Yax our Chief Technician produced a total of six video tutorials explaining step by step the following:

1. An Overview of the System, and its use.
2. How to perform routine System Sanitization
3. How to Back Wash the Sand Filters
4. How to repair the Venturi
5. How to repair the Ozone Unit (using one of our repair kits)
6. How to properly sanitize and fill the Water Distribution Bottles.

Each of these video tutorials can be seen on our Facebook page. The videos have been shared with our operating partners as needed. Feedback indicates that all who have seen the videos are grateful for the step-by-step instructions, which in turn have been very useful for our partners.

Latest Videos



Desinfección del Sistema

Los tutoriales Living Water World Missions fueron creados para apoyar a nuestros operadores con claras indicaciones y pasos a seguir en los procesos operativos más realizados dentro de nuestros sistemas....

16 weeks ago · 230 Views



Carmen Maria Rosal Sagastume, Mark Vaniel and 28 others



Uso general del sistema

En este tutorial podrás conocer por fases el correcto funcionamiento del sistema de purificación de agua de Living Water World Missions.

16 weeks ago · 254 Views



Carmen Maria Rosal Sagastume, Mark Vaniel and 14 others



Retro lavado de filtros de arena

En este video podrás encontrar los pasos para realizar el retro lavado de los filtros de arena.

16 weeks ago · 282 Views



Carmen Maria Rosal Sagastume, Mark Vaniel and 16 others

Water Production of Operational Partners and Social Projection in their Communities

This year we are very proud to share about the work of our system partners; it is amazing to witness how our partners have responded to the needs of their communities during the COVID-19 crisis. We understand that all of the work that this Ministry had completed in the previous years has been essential for such a time as this. First of all, since the lockdown in Guatemala affected greatly the economy of that country, and also since church services were not permitted, the water project in many of these sites was the vehicle that allowed them to continue operating their programs. We praise God because none of our system partners stopped their operations due to the pandemic; to the contrary, most of them increased their production considerably, taking this time of difficulty as an opportunity to share Jesus with their communities through the distribution of clean water and groceries. During the whole year we received reports from them about how they were continuously producing clean water, and projecting themselves to their communities, giving away water and food, to those who were in most need. Some of the benefited ones have been: Church members, community families, policemen and military personnel.



100 Family Challenge:

May 1-15 2020

This year, from May 1 to May 15, our annual 100 Family Challenge campaign invited individuals and churches to fundraise in teams to fund water systems for in Guatemala. Our original campaign plan was to recruit 100 people to donate \$3 for 15 days to raise \$4500 for the installation of a water purification system in Guatemala. But when the COVID-19 crisis hit Guatemala, God opened the doors for LWWM Guatemala to collaborate with the Guatemalan government to supply clean water to the COVID-19 hospitals that were under construction. So, the 100 Family Challenge shifted to raise funds for the water system installations at the regional hospitals being built for COVID-19 treatment. Our supporters responded generously as these system installations required additional funding compared to regular installations. This was in part due to the need to ship system materials to Guatemala, which can be expensive. Our supporters reached out to their churches, friends, and family to form fundraising teams. The team with the greatest number of donors won a free trip for the team captain!

Over 80 donors took part in the challenge including folks from thirteen states! Together we raised over \$21,000 in donations large and small. This allowed the funding of three hospitals systems, including shipping, installed by LWWM Guatemala staff in April, May, and October of 2020 and the repair an additional system used by a military base to supply water to troops and to the local community.



Share the Mission 2020 Virtual Auction

For Such a Time as This. Esther 4:14

October 17-24

Our Share the Mission 2020 Virtual Auction event was a wonderful success as we shifted to an all-virtual campaign this fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is our primary campaign to raise funds for our 2021 operations, including new installations, ministry partner support, and LWWM staff in Guatemala. The theme, "For Such A Time As This" from Esther 4:14 was a reflection of how the Lord prepared the way for us to be in a position to expand access to clean water during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in Guatemala, with the new hospital installations. Through video updates, we were able to share with you the work of our ministry partners in Guatemala that have continued to support their communities with clean water in the midst of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. The auction packages included vacation stays, restaurant gift certificates, Guatemalan handicrafts, zoo tickets, horseback riding lessons, award-winning wines, quilts, personal care packages, and more!

With auction proceeds and generous donations from so many donors, more than \$70,000 was raised to support this ministry of bringing clean water in the name of Jesus Christ to communities in need. Over 80 people participated in the auction, which was a great success. Clean water is truly essential, particularly during a global pandemic, but above all, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ that gives life continued during this time of difficulty and trials! We are grateful to each of you for your support during this challenging year.

2020 Event Sponsors

Gateway Church of Visalia

Kobus Business Systems

Vance Physical Therapy and Wellness



7th Annual Conference,
Wednesday, December 9th
Thursday, December 10th



Blessed are those who have regard for the weak;
the LORD delivers them in times of trouble. Psalm 41:1

On Wednesday December 9th, and Thursday, December 10th we had our 7th Annual Operators Conference at Bonanza La Ponderosa, in Tecpán, Guatemala. There were a total of 141 people attending the Conference, including four board members from Visalia, California.

This year our conference was quite different from others we have had in the past. First of all, we were not sure if this year we were going to have a Conference, but as He usually does, God guided us to what He had planned. Secondly, due to the Health Department restrictions on number of people allowed at a single gathering, we had to split the list of our partners in two, with different groups attending on the two different days of the conference. Also we had to follow the COVID-19 Protocols that included: temperature testing, social distancing, the wearing masks and use of hand sanitizer. And even though this time our Conference was quite different, the sentiment was the same.

Our Operating Partners were very happy to see that they had not been forgotten during this time of crisis, and we were able to share with them our plans for the New Year, as they shared with us their successes of the past year.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS:

During this last year our Staff in Guatemala have responded to multiple requests for assistance from the operators of systems not installed by LWWM. Our Staff have been able to visit each of those sites that requested help, repair their systems, and replace their filters as needed.

Most recently Josué and Eswin worked hand in hand with one of those sites, located at Iglesia Evangélica Cristo la Roca in Cuilapa to make improvements to their water purification system and thus help them to be able to continue with their work and produce quality water to their community.



Many thanks to each one of you who has made all this work possible.