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# Asociación Hogar de Vida Para La Niñez

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## Financial Donations Administered by Partnering Ministry:

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## Heart for Missions

*An interview with Dena*

“Missionaries are ordinary people that are willing to go and do.”

“I was born a missionary kid in Papua New Guinea. At age 12, my family

moved back to the US, but I was a fish out of water for all of high school and college. Yet the Lord used this to show me that I didn’t belong in the US. I was going to be a missionary in a foreign field. The years were not wasted as I prepared, naturally helped by my family and the example of my parents.”

“The Lord birthed way deep in me a love for Jesus and the ability to love people who aren’t white. Every person is special to God, known by Him since before the foundations of the earth.

Children are sometimes the victims of life-abuse, poverty, and abandonment. For them, life sometimes isn’t worth it, life is no good, or they feel they’re no good. But I say, “Yes, you are special, and God has something special for you. It’s all in Jesus and you can know Him.

God is a restorative God. Each child that is placed in the children’s home has an opportunity to be redeemed, through Jesus, even from really bad stuff. It’s a springboard to God’s destiny for their lives. That’s my passion -- to see lives restored.

From II Peter 3, the heart of God is that none would perish, but all would come to repentance.

## From the Support Team

Christmas greetings in the name of the Christ child, born to be our Savior. This is a season of wonder as we celebrate Jesus, the Word of God, come to earth to live among us and to show us what God is like. This is also a season when our hearts turn toward family, especially children, and giving.

Chances are that you have known Tim and Dena for some time, as I have. Together, we’ve been blessed as we witness their passion for God and for hurting children. As we’ve supported them and prayed for them, read their newsletters, visited with them in our churches and homes, or perhaps served at the Homes of Life in Central America, we’ve seen them used of God to develop the homes in Guatemala and Costa Rica from almost nothing. As a result, many hundreds, or perhaps a thousand or more, deeply wounded children have been transformed and restored through the healing power of Jesus channeled through Tim and Dena. Our investment in their ministry is well used.

As you consider the gifts you will give this Christmas, would you also consider a gift to Tim and Dena and the children they serve in Costa Rica and Guatemala? It will help them and the Homes of Life enter the New Year on a stronger financial foundation.



Serving the Savior and His Children,  
Tom Cribbs  
Co-Leader, Volunteer Support Team

## Rubi's Story

In the summer of 1992, my husband, Steve, went on a mission trip to Guatemala with his church youth group. They worked alongside Tim and Dena Stromstad to help lay the foundation for a children's home, Hogar de Vida. Little did Steve know, but he was helping to build the children's home that his first child would someday come to call her home.



Rubi arrived at Hogar de Vida when she was a year old. Having lost both of her biological parents, Rubi was one of the few children available to be adopted. When Rubi was four years old we were presented with the opportunity to be her adoptive parents. We felt the Lord was calling us to do this for many different reasons. At that time, we were told very little about Rubi's background. We knew there was the possibility of her having two biological brothers, but she did not see them very often and did not have much of a relationship with them. It was always our hope that Rubi would someday be able to return to Guatemala. Over the years our church has continued with mission trips to Guatemala and in the summer of 2007, Steve's mom was a part of a team. During her time there she was surprised by the appearance of one of Rubi's brothers. He just decided to stop by the home one day to see if he could find information about what happened to his sister. He had no idea her grandmother was there. He was surprised to learn that his sister was alive and well, adopted by an American family and living in the USA. We were all surprised to learn that Rubi actually had four brothers and one sister. At that moment we decided it was time for Rubi to return to Guatemala for a visit.

In the summer of 2008 Rubi and I returned to Guatemala with a mission team from our church. We were both filled with mixed emotions about the return, but knew the Lord had a plan and that we were meant to be there. Some of the children that Rubi had lived with at Hogar de Vida were still there including her best friend Mingo. It was a very happy moment to see Rubi and Mingo reunite and continue their friendship. During that trip we

were also given the chance to meet Rubi's entire family. What an exciting and emotional time for us. For me, meeting them was such a blessing and gave



me the opportunity to thank them for the gift that they had given to our family in Rubi. What an honor for us to share Rubi with them and for them to see what a beautiful young lady she has become. It was an emotional reunion for us all and a memory we will never forget. Leaving Guatemala that summer was difficult for both of us, but especially for Rubi. After returning home, it took her a while to process everything that she had experienced. Not knowing if she would return again someday weighed heavily on her heart, but I had made a promise to her family that we would return as often as we could. In the fall of 2010, we kept that promise and returned to Guatemala with another team from our church. This trip was just as special as the first. We were able to spend even more time with Rubi's family and were even able to share the love of Jesus with her sister's village. I think this trip was just as special for Rubi because it confirmed that she would return again and that her relationships with her friends and family would only continue to grow stronger.

We are so thankful to the Lord for Rubi and her adopted brother Braydon. Each year we celebrate both our children's birthdays, their actual birthday and their adoption birthday. Life moments like Mother's Day and Father's Day are even more special now because we have them in our lives. Words alone can never express the love we have, not only for our Father in heaven, but for both our children's biological families for making the tough choices that they made in giving up their children. Because of their unselfish love and sacrifice, our family is complete



--Kelly King, Rubi's mom