



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Serving Comitancillo,  
Guatemala



## Dear Mission Partner,

As the Guatemalan missionary and Director of Operations for Mission House, I want to thank you all for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support to the ministry here in Comitancillo. It makes a big difference when a whole team is backing up the work done every day. The local team's work would not be possible without your part.

2020 was challenging. After March we were not able to receive teams from the US. That hit the ministry hard since that is one of our key works that we do to minister to our local churches and the whole community. However, we have been able to adapt to the circumstances, and so our Scholarship and Animal programs were able to continue their work. In fact, our US partners began

supporting a new project called Covid-19 Relief. This allowed us to support about 125 poor families monthly who were affected by the pandemic by providing basic food supplies.

Looking ahead, we are very encouraged to see US teams planning to come back to start ministering again soon. The local team is very focused on the ministry to keep the programs going and to spread the Gospel through our relationship with these people that we work with, which is our final goal for what we do. Again, thank you for supporting the work we do. To the whole ministry, we are here to serve with you.

Ovidio Garcia, Missionary and MHM Director  
On behalf of the MHM Team



# HAND UP SUMMARY 2020

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**36**

NEW FAMILIES  
BENEFITTED IN THE  
ANIMAL PROGRAM

**265**

SWEATERS GIVEN TO  
CHILDREN IN THE  
PROGRAMS

**4**

WOMEN GRADUATED  
AS PRE-PRIMARY  
EDUCATION TEACHERS

**368**

FAMILIES ASSISTED  
SO FAR IN THE  
ANIMAL PROGRAM

**26**

1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADERS  
SUPPORTED IN THE  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**125**

FAMILIES SUPPORTED  
THROUGH THE COVID  
RELIEF PROGRAM

**211**

PIGS

**175**

SHEEP

**2393**

CHICKENS

ANIMALS VACCINATED IN THE ANIMAL PROGRAM



## ANIMAL PROGRAM

The purpose of the Animal Program is to support low-income families and widowed women. We provide them with an incentive to purchase a domestic animal. These animals provide both a source of food and means of generating income, which helps the families improve their economic situation. We partner with the families as they raise these animals, teaching them health techniques from the time the animal is purchased to when it reaches the market.

Due to the pandemic, we were not able to carry out all the activities we usually do, particularly receiving a group of Missionaries to help with the program. Even so, we have been able to continue providing for those in need and work with what is within our reach.



During the year 2020, your contributions helped us benefit 36 new families, as well as continue supporting families who were doing well in the program. We carried out 3 vaccination days, during which we vaccinated 211 pigs, 175 sheep, and 2393 chickens. We also provided bags of dewormer and vitamins to each family. Through phone calls, we were able to monitor and institute the prevention and cure of diseases in animals using natural plants.



We were able to give chicken feed to families to continue their growing business of raising animals. The animal market was closed for a few months, and so the families had to adapt to doing business among the neighbors of the same community to buy and sell domestic animals. We supported their efforts in this, and plan to expand our assistance in these neighborhood markets into 2021.

We believe that God's mercy is great and that he is in control of everything, and that the program will continue to function during this situation. – *Alba, Animal Program Admin*

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### Comitancillo has one of the highest degrees of malnutrition and school dropout in Guatemala at the national level.

The scholarship program supports children from broken families who are at risk in their education. Their guardians are given an economic monthly payment with which they can buy non-perishable food. We preach to them the gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ and we monitor the learning process of each benefited child. This allows us to contribute to improving the quality of life of those most in need.



This year we were able to support the teaching and learning of the twenty-six 1st and 2nd graders, which is the most vulnerable group. We elaborated didactic material from the national curriculum of the Ministry of Education of Guatemala and brought the children's material to each home. This allowed the children to keep their education up to date. Thank God for kind hearts, because this year we were also able to provide sweaters for all the 130 children in the program. The sweaters are in

the manufacturing process, so in the first week of February 2021 we will be delivering them to the children.

2020 was a year in which God put the potential of the scholarship ministry to the test. Thank God he gave us the wisdom to face and carry out scheduled activities and new challenges that made this year a success too. – *Carlos, Scholarship Program Admin*

This year four young ladies graduated from the scholarship program and obtained the title of Pre-Primary Education Teachers. Mission Housing Ministries supported them financially for more than 6 years.



Adelina Elizabeth Agustín  
Salvador, Sponsor:  
Parham

Cindy Fabiola Ramírez  
Pérez, Sponsor: Shanon  
Albertson

Idalia Felicita Ramírez  
Pérez, Sponsor: Ron  
Gerstenberg

Mirna Edilma Tomás,  
Sponsor: Parham



## COVID RELIEF PROGRAM

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

2 Corinthians 5:7



2020 was a year of unforeseen hardship with the widespread infection of the COVID-19 virus. In good times, many families in Guatemala have great needs. Many have food for 1-2 meals per day and a family meal may consist of a few eggs, rice, and tortillas. When COVID hit, Guatemala enforced curfews and closures, resulting in many people being unable to work and struggling to feed their families. Needy families were the hardest hit.

During this time of startling need, we established a relief fund, the COVID Relief program. Near the beginning of the pandemic, we visited families in the most need, including the elderly, widows, and orphans. Many of these people lived far from the

downtown of Comitancillo. We were able to share the love of God and remind them that they are important to us, as well as identify the neediest families to support through the program.



With the help of your prayers and donations, we were able to support 125 orphans, widows and low-income families from different communities in Comitancillo. We shared with these families the Love of Christ through prayers and a bag of food supplies. These supplies included eggs, corn, oatmeal, noodles, rice, sugar, milk, and more. We were also able to give a sweater to every child who received supplies.



# PARTNER SUMMARY 2020

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**700**

SURGERIES  
PERFORMED AT  
VISION+

**10-15**

PATIENTS ATTENDING  
THE VISION+ CLINIC A  
DAY

**3**

HOUSES, 9 BUNK  
BEDS, 2 STOVES  
BUILT

**23**

STUDENTS  
GRADUATED FROM  
FTEI

**25**

NEW FTEI STUDENTS  
DURING 2020

**58**

CURRENT STUDENTS  
AT FTEI

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

Philippians 1:3-5



## VISION+ EYE CLINIC REPORT

What a year, 2020, for the Eye Clinic. It's clear that God has been and will be in control of everything. During March, when the first confinement was forced here in Guatemala, I thought the clinic was going to be closed down. It did not end up closing, but was slow until essential services were asked to open a month later. After that the whole year was busy, busier than what we thought. During the year we performed close to 700 surgeries, from small ones to pterygiums and cataracts. On average, there were about 10 to 15 patients attending the clinic a day.

Seeing the attendance at the clinic, we are committed to bettering our service by having quality staff and service, which means good equipment too. We thank the Lord for his provision and to a partner who donated to upgrade part of our equipment. This is being done currently, so our patients will be able to have some tests done locally, instead of going to another town for them.

We thank the Lord for his protection and blessings, and to our partners for your continued support to this ministry. – *Ovidio, Optometrist and Clinic Director*

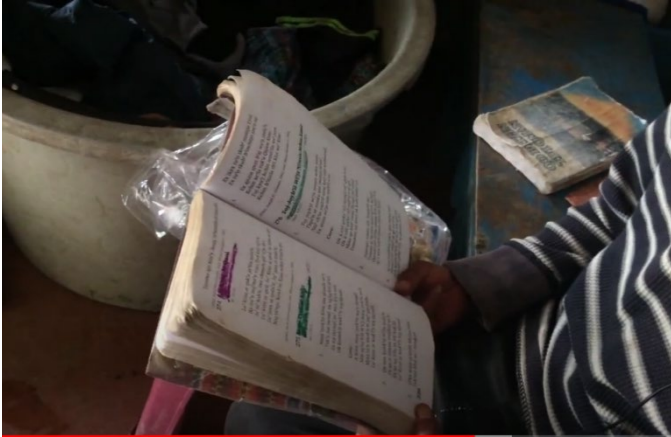




## LAMP MAM LITERACY REPORT

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19



The LAMP Mam Literacy Ministry works to help men and women become literate in the language of Mam, so that they can bring the Bible to people in their historical language. For many years Mam has just been a spoken language, so a huge literacy effort is necessary to help people learn to read the bible in their heart language. LAMP does this through Bible studies, preparing teaching and

evangelism materials in mam, and radio programs with biblical studies.

LAMP also works to translate the Bible into Mam. The New Testament translation has already been completed. This past year LAMP continued in translating the Old Testament. The base translation of the Old Testament into the dialect of Central Mam is complete, and the final review is underway. We are hopeful that the Old Testament translation will be released for publication this year.

Thank you for your support of our pastoral and radio ministry. Especially with the LAMP ministry. Despite great difficulties this year, you were faithful in your collaboration with the ministry we are developing. We encourage you to continue to be involved in God's work. It is our wish that God bless you and your family. - **LAMP**



## FTEI BIBLE INSTITUTE REPORT



FTEI is the first non-profit evangelical, Inter-denominational Bible institute in the western region in Guatemala. FTEI starts their program with basic education, through a partnership with ISEA (Institute of Distance Education). This helps build up pastors to better be able to read and study the Bible. With this foundation, FTEI can train pastors

in three different levels in theology. Finally, FTEI supplements the theological training with music, building up worship leaders for the church.

Even through 2020, FTEI had over fifty students in their programs, which included twenty-five new entries. Twenty-three people graduated during 2020, from the Theology, Music, and ISEA programs.

We are grateful to God for what has been achieved during the year 2020. It has been a difficult year for all of us, yet we have seen God's hand in allowing us to succeed through it. We thank Mission Housing for its spiritual, moral, and economic support, without which the development of the different FTEI programs would not be possible during 2020. - *FTEI*





## Financial Update

As we embarked upon 2020, we had no idea what was in store. But we were determined to be a light in the darkness. And God provided for every need. This is clear as you read the rest of the annual report, but it also shines here as the ‘story behind the numbers.’

First, we recognize that this was a difficult year for many. We hosted only two US teams in 2020, both in February. Team-based revenue and activity was down 90% for the year. Overall, our revenue was down 31% year-over-year.

But we adjusted, believing that God was calling us to provide stability in a time of uncertainty. First for our team and then within the community. On faith, we committed to our Guatemalan staff and partners that we would maintain stable funding and draw on our reserves if necessary.

We began to talk and pray about ways we could invest in the community during this time. The COVID relief program grew from those discussions.

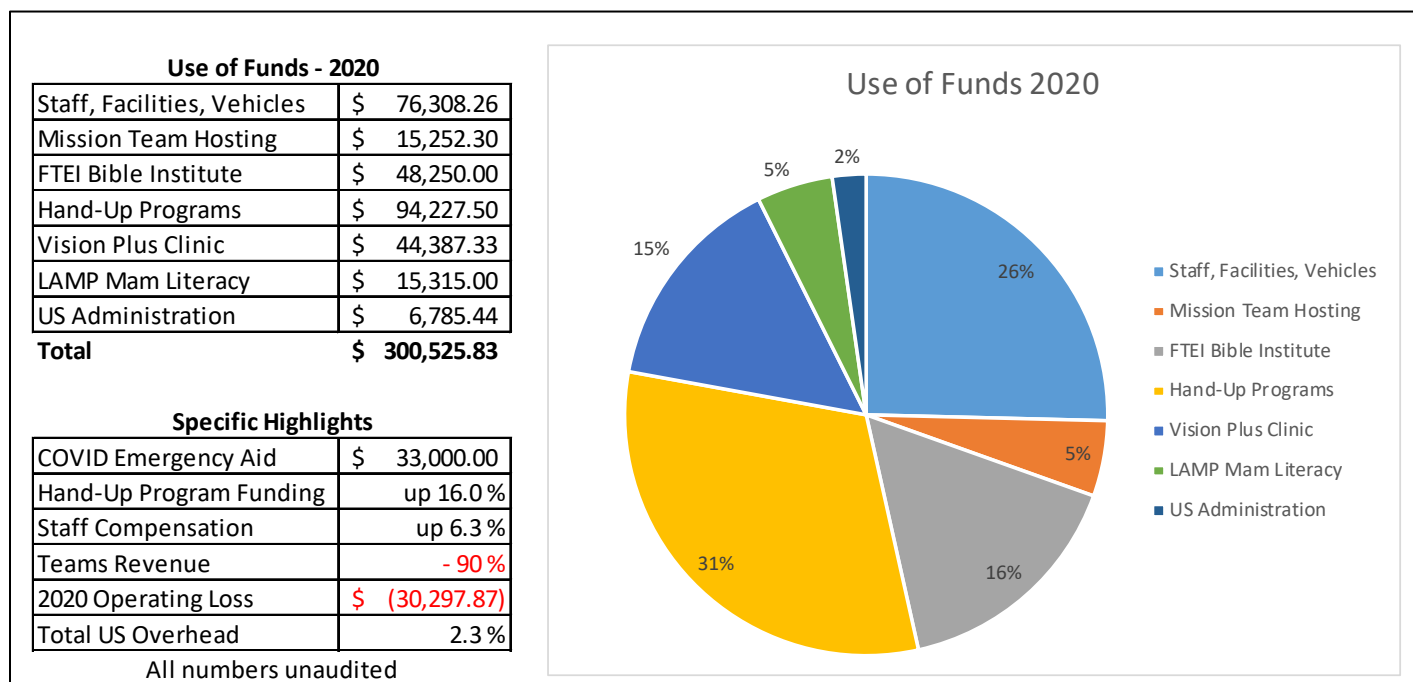
God began preparing MHM for 2020 far before COVID hit. He provided the ministry with faithful partners, wise leaders, and healthy reserves. We were able to lean into the challenges of this year because of His provision and for His glory. - *Eric Ferree, US Administrator*

You responded as donors and partners, and we were able to provide \$33,000 to meet basic needs for the most at-risk families. This continues today.

In the fall we provided hazard bonuses for our staff as they reached out into the community. The Lord blessed them, and they remained healthy.

As the year closed, we landed in the red, but our reserves were healthy, and the roughly \$30,000 loss is not a hardship.

Thank you for your partnership and PRAISE GOD for the work that He has done through you, the ministry, and each of our team members.





**Mission Housing Ministries**  
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Missions Partner