

hola amigos! wanted to shoot out a couple quick updates from guatemala. i cannot even scratch the surface as to all that is going on in quick email, but nonetheless wanted to share a couple stories and some recent happenings. we have definitely been going to bed exhausted these days, but what a blessing to have the strength, energy, and ability to serve jesus. we are praising him as hearts are being changed, new initiatives are starting, and more help is coming. thank your for your prayers and support, and please join us in praising him together for all that is happening!!!

- great things are happening through the **BOYS ACADEMY** (bvboys.com). many are showing true signs of change. heavy on my heart lately is the clear changes i am seeing in jose. jose doesn't know his own age. he has never been to school. his dad, who was a known town drunk, died in a tragic accident at their home, and his mom hasn't been home much ever since. he has raised himself on the streets. with an upbringing like this, it won't be much of a shock to know that jose is a difficult kid. in fact, just 2 months ago we were wondering if we were going to have to let him go from the academy b/c of the negative influence he was having on his teammates. i hate to admit this but i honestly couldn't stand being around him. he was always sneaking, lying, manipulating, and cheating. i began to think that every word out of his mouth was a lie. he was constantly getting his teammates into trouble. anyway... we decided as a team here to pray for him and pray for ourselves...to have grace towards him and do our best to love him. by God's grace alone, he has taken a turn. through several breakthrough moments, conversations, classroom discussions, countless hours of soccer practices, and time in his home... we are beginning to see a major change. his attitude is completely different. his heart is softer. he listens to correction and truly shows that he wants to improve. during a recent game when he enthusiastically cheered on a teammate and embraced him after a big play, i stood there in awe of the different person that i was witnessing. the last couple weeks, he has started hugging me when he leaves. i dont even know what to say, other than praise God!
- one other thing related to jose... he has a little brother, probably around 8 years old, named Slater. last week, i fought back tears (tried to) as he shared with me his dream of "being a rhino someday." as soon as he said it i found a huge lump in my throat! he went on... "do you think i will be Don Brock? do you think i can be? i want to be a rhino!" i get goose bumps just at the thought of not only how this family could forever be changed through jose, but also through his little brother. if these boys turn to jesus, and learn how to stand strong as godly men of values and character, there is no limit to what type of change they can ignite in this village as they grow up! what a different legacy they can build for themselves and their families from the one that their father left for them. for me personally, stories such as this one reveal the true saving grace of jesus christ. he saves us from our sin and from ourselves. pray with us for jose and slater!
- we took our JV Rhinos to guatemala city for the first time to play with the big boys. it wasnt just the first time for us to *take* them, but the first time for them to *ever* be in the city! they even got to visit mcDonalds. read the [blog here](#), and watch a little [video here](#) shot from mcD's...
- we're excited for what is going on with the **EDUCATE BUENA VISTA** initiative headed up by our friends the Schmidt family. together with the boy's academy focus on raising up strong next-generation leaders, the 12x12 ministry working hard to better the awful home conditions... we believe we are experiencing the beginning of a long-term transformation of this area! read more about whats going on and get involved at educatebv.com
- the **12x12 LOVE PROJECT** continues strong. we're about to celebrate home #60 since we started 3 years ago! thats 60 new, block homes reinforced with steel (which after 5 earthquakes in the last week i am reminded how important that is). we continue to be amazed at God's provision for new homes!! also thankful for the steed family and their growing role of operational oversight of the 12x12 ministry here on the ground. follow us at 1212loveproject.org. some great recent stories include that of [mercedes](#), [juan & sandra](#), and [juan francisco](#)!

- our guatemala **COMMUNITY** on the ground is growing! as of this monday's arrival of the bunso family, we will be 6 families strong! you can keep up with all of us through our websites and blogs - all listed on the [serving together](#) page at www.deepStreamguatemala.com.
- lastly, we are always looking for **HELP**... donations, equipment, etc if anyone feels led. we are still short 13,000 on the facility construction - please pray with us on this! also, we didn't realize how quickly we would go through shoes, soccer balls, and gear! there is a short-list of needs on our website, [just click here](#).

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PRAY FOR US, SUPPORT US, AND DREAM WITH US. WE LOVE YOU!

brock & the johnsons