KINGDOM CONNECTIONS INTERNATIONAL

2019-2020

THE SUQUINAY PROJECT

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THE SUQUINAY PROJECT

Mark and Robin Sewell, Founders

We are very common, ordinary people, but we have an extraordinary God. On our first mission trip in 1999 to Saltillo, Mexico, the Lord spoke to our hearts and ever since we have had a burning passion inside of us to go where there is great need and share God's love to a lost and dying world. During the last 20 years we have seen much poverty, sickness, disease, hurt, and desperation in the many countries that God has allowed us to visit. We believe that we have heard the heart of God for people, His beautiful creation, and our desire is to share His heart. He has pinpointed the small, beautiful country of Guatemala to begin a more permanent work. In 2018, we visited a small (approximately 500 families) mountain village called Suquinay for the first time. This is where the "Suquinay Project" began. It is now time to move forward in what we believe God has called us to do.

Non-Profit Corporation

Kingdom Connections International is recognized in the United States as a non-profit organization. We obtained our non-profit status effective June 5, 2015.

Suquinay

Suquinay is a very poor mountain village of approximately 500 families, but is filled with precious, hard-working people. Most of the adults have very little education and approximately 75% of them cannot read or write. Their main source of income is agriculture, mostly coffee, but is seasonal. The whole village only receives running water in their homes one day per week. Otherwise, they try to provide for themselves and their families in whatever way they can. Some of the men work outside of the village (some in coffee fields or other miscellaneous jobs), but in order to do so they either have to have transportation (predominantly a motorcycle) or money for a bus, which most of them have neither. They find themselves caught in a web of poverty that they so desperately desire to break out of. We believe that with the Lord's help, by teaching the people how to have a relationship with Jesus, teaching them the Word of God and its principles, as well as providing them training in various skills and literacy, we (God, us, and everyone involved either through finances, or hands-on work) can help them break that web that they find themselves so entangled in.

When we first went to Suquinay, we were told by the head of the "Cocode" (the village governing body) that there had never been a missionary or any Christian influence in the village in his lifetime (68 years). There is not a Christian church in Suquinay, or any church for that matter. The people in Suquinay are very open to the Gospel, and there seems to be a real hunger for God. From the moment we stepped foot in Suquinay, we knew that there was something special in that place. Each and every person we have taken to Suquinay (whether from the cities of Guatemala, or from the United States), feels a warmth, a love, and a presence of God that can't be explained. For lack of better terminology, we feel an "open heaven", a "portal" over

Suquinay. God has a tremendous plan for this place and these people, and we are honored that He has allowed us to be a part of it.

Land and Construction

On February 28, 2019, we were MIRACULOUSLY able to buy a piece of land in Suquinay for approximately $4,000.00. The reason it was a miracle is because in order to buy land in any mountain village, you must be from that village. Even the Guatemalans were amazed that we were able to purchase land in the mountains. God was up to something!!! We had a service on February 28, 2019, dedicating this land to the Lord.

Since then, we have had the ground leveled and it is ready for construction. We had plans drawn and are now ready to break ground as soon as finances come in. Pictures of the plans are included in this proposal.

There are reasons for the design of the building. We were originally wanting the sanctuary/fellowship hall (salon), bathrooms, coffee shop, entry, etc., on the first level and the classrooms with bathrooms on the second level. There is currently an electric pole at the back center of the property with lines going out in each direction. In order to have the pole moved off of OUR property, it was going to cost over $5,000, so we decided to go with a single story building with the classrooms next to the main building. We are dealing with a foreign government and country, and at times it can be very frustrating to try to understand why they do the things they do! Many times we get the feeling of, "We're not in Kansas anymore," but we have had to learn patience and grow in grace!

Current Ministry Projects in Suquinay

- **Suquinay School –** At the beginning of the 2018 school year (January, 2018) we began "sponsoring" the elementary school in Suquinay. We currently find a sponsor for each student (approximately 160). That sponsor pays $15.00 per month which provides a new book bag, school supplies, uniform, new shoes, work books, etc. This also provides an open door for us to go in several times per year to share Bible related teaching and activities with the children.
  On February 4, 2019, we were able to purchase the adjoining property to the school for them to build classrooms, new latrines (there were only 2 for 160 students), and just to have some extra room. We are currently planning to build a swing set for the school once the ground is ready.
- **Church Services/Bible Studies** – We currently have a Guatemalan pastor who is serving the people of Suquinay by providing weekly services and Bible studies. There is an average of 100 children and 60-70 adults in attendance. The numbers tend to go down some when it is colder. Hot coffee and sweet bread is served after each service.
- **Youth Services** - We believe that it is very important to reach the young generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the moment, we are able to offer a service geared to the youth once per month. Once the building is complete, we will do this a little more often, and hopefully it will eventually be a weekly service.
- **Baptism Service** – We had our first baptism service on August 18, 2019, in which we baptized 10 people. Baptism services in Guatemala are more than a normal service…they are a celebration of new life with a service, baptisms, and a meal.

- **Baby Showers** – We had the first baby shower in Suquinay in July, 2019, honoring 3 babies. The precious ladies had never heard of a baby shower and was blown away by the whole concept. I (Robin) was the only one who brought gifts, but everyone enjoyed the day immensely. We will continue to celebrate each new life.

- **Women's Bible Studies** – The women really enjoy getting together to hear the word, fellowship, and laugh together. There is usually anywhere from 35-50 ladies in attendance.
- **Short Term Mission Team Ministry in Suquinay** – In the summers of 2018 and 2019, several of our short term mission teams ministered in Suquinay. The day was filled with children's ministry (games, Bible story, crafts), as well as adult ministry (testimonies, pray for needs). At the end of the event, everyone was served lunch. There are approximately 300 people in attendance at these events.
- **Clothes Giveaway** – We periodically have a clothes giveaway for the whole community. People come and are blessed with approximately 4 clothing items per person. At the last clothes giveaway in July, 2019, we gave clothes away to approximately 425 people.
- **Other Types of Giveaways –** We also have other miscellaneous giveaways which usually take place after a worship service. In the past we have given away new shoes, coats, socks, formula/cereal for infants, and toys for children.

Dreaming with God

It is of utmost importance and urgency that the church/community center is built as soon as possible. It gets cold in the mountains surrounding Jalapa (which includes Suquinay), especially in our winter months! But many people continue to be faithful to the open-air services and church activities. It is also very hard to hold services and activities in the rainy season (May-September). Once the building is built, we will be able to begin to offer the much needed adult classes that God has laid on our hearts, or on the hearts of those who will come alongside us to work.

- **Adult Literacy Education**: As mentioned above, approximately 75% of the adults (especially older adults) living in Suquinay do not read or write in their native language (Spanish). Plans are underway to begin literacy classes in March, 2020. The classes will temporarily meet in the school building until our facility is built.
- **After-School Program**: The Lord has put on our hearts to provide an after-school program for the children. This would provide a safe place for them to come for a hot lunch, help with homework, as well as Bible lessons. We are believing God for not only the building, but also the manpower to get this program up and running.
- **Computer Lab**: We are also believing God for a computer lab to not only be used in the after-school program, but also offer adult classes in basic computer skills and working with various software.
- **Skills Training**: Depending on the giftings and talents of the people that God brings to help with the Suquinay Project, we will offer various classes, i.e. sewing, woodworking, masonry, agriculture, etc., to help the people of Suquinay acquire the needed skills to secure jobs or start their own businesses to provide for their families.
- **Coffee Shop/Teenage Hangout**: This will be a safe place and environment to give teenagers community with each other. A place where Christian music will be playing and coffee is available for free, or a snack and soft drink for a minimal charge. We would like to offer some enjoyment and fun through board games, video games, etc. This will give the teenagers an alternative to what the world has to offer (drinking, drugs, gangs, sex, etc.). There is currently a large number of teenage pregnancy.
- **Water Well**: As mentioned above, these precious people only have running water in their homes 1 day each week. It is our desire to provide a place that they can come for not only living water, but also have a physical water supply each and every day.

God has put a BIG dream in our hearts, but we know that we serve a BIG God. If we were able to accomplish this dream with our own resources and our own hands, it would only be OUR dream, not GOD'S dream. God's dream is always too big for us to do on our own, because it is God's desire to bring others to work together to see this dream fulfilled.

Contact Information

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Construction Plans

BUILDING MATERIALS – PHASE 1 (CHURCH)

BUILDING MATERIALS – PHASE 2 (CLASSROOMS)

BUILDING MATERIALS – PHASE 3 (CARETAKER)

Photo Gallery

Land dedication.

Leveling the land.

Set-up for service.

Night service on the new leveled land.

Preparing coffee for after the service.

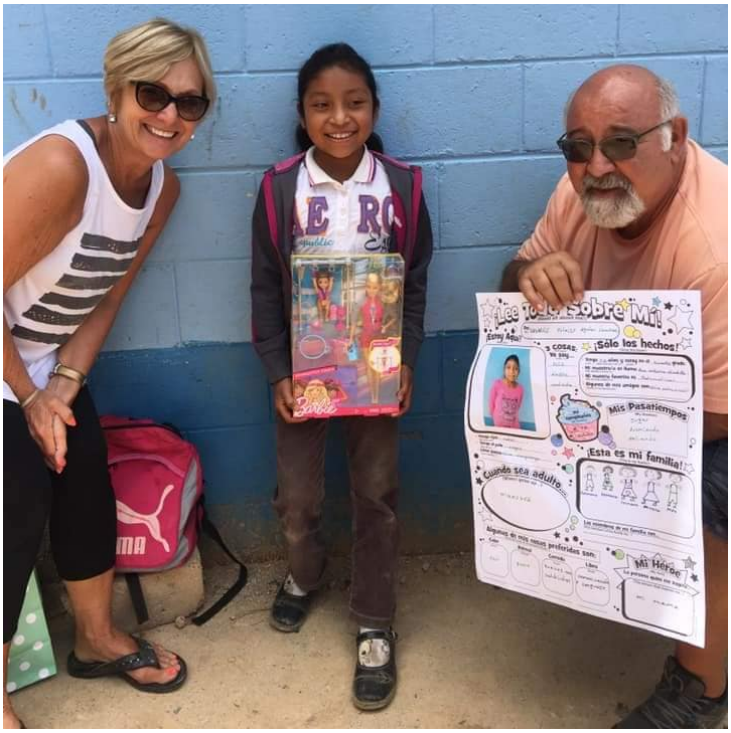
Worship!

Youth Service.

Baby dedication.

New School supplies and book bags!

New school supplies and book bags brings many smiles!



Sponsors meeting their child.

Baby shower.

Praying for this precious mom and her baby at the shower.

Missions team ministry in Suquinay.

Sock giveaway.

Clothes giveaway.

Toy giveaway.