

THE SKEETERBYTES SPETNAGEL FAMILY

SERVING IN
HONDURAS



June 2022

Changes

It has been three months since the start of the school year at Proyecto Brazos de Jesus. There have been so many **changes**: the school grounds, new teachers, and a computer lab that was just finished. God provided all these new **changes** through people like you, our champions. You keep us here to do His work.

I want to tell you about the most important **change** this year: **the kids are back to the classroom!** The administration at Brazos added 5th grade. That brought us to 223 students in all the grades combined. We are praising the Lord for this number. Unfortunately, we had to turn kids away due to the COVID space-restrictions, but we are blessed to have this opportunity of impact.



Photo was taken in 2018

One of those students is Suyapa. Suyapa is a girl who joined first grade in 2018 when she was 11 years old. She is currently in fifth grade and the oldest of five siblings.

Suyapa has gone through many difficulties. At an early age she learned that her father had been murdered when she was just an infant. Her mother is an alcoholic and drug addict who works at night to help pay for food. Since she was a child, her family life has been extremely rough. One day last year her mother physically abused Suyapa and her siblings. Because of this situation, they had to flee to find a place of security – living with an aunt.

During this difficult time, God used Brazos de Jesus to come alongside Suyapa and her siblings to provide everything they needed to continue with their virtual studies. This year Suyapa returned to the Project to study. Now she stays with another aunt. Her siblings are with different relatives.

Unfortunately, two of her siblings no longer attend school. They prefer to scavenge in the municipal landfill to find recyclables to sell because they want to buy a house. In April Suyapa turned 15. This is a very important birthday for all girls in Latin America. As a Project, we decided to celebrate this milestone with her – an event she had dreamed of so much.



Aleyda with suyapa

As you read Suyapa's story, please help us pray for her and for all the children of the Project who day-by-day, fight against the darkness and evil that surrounds them. Pray that they may never lose hope and that the faith and love of Christ may reign in them. **(Due to the privacy of this young lady, her name was changed)**

More Changes

Over the past year I (Tim) have worked at making the Proyecto Brazos de Jesus school look beautiful. In 2022 we have painted the outside of the buildings and remodeled many of the rooms with new paint and new trim. The chairs and the tables in the dining hall had never been refinished since they were made in 1996. I felt like they needed to be refinished and repaired for the students. They turned out gorgeous! Now we have new projects to work on:

We plan to put a roof on over the two container-classrooms that we built three years ago. The sun and the rain are harsh here. We have painted the containers, but we need to protect the top with an additional covering/roof.

We want to build a good chicken-coop to provide eggs for the kids at the project.

As Brazos de Jesus grows, it will need to offer vocational education. We need to build a pole-barn building to house various vocational shops. We want to start with welding classes.



Nery painting the outside of the classrooms.

Kids Korner

Kids Korner: What a year we have had with the boys! By the time you receive this newsletter the boys will have finished the school year. This whole year, the boys had virtual learning until the first of May. So, Max and Lucas only went to school in-person one month. But I have to say that one month was a game changer for both! Max loves to go to school because of the interaction with the other students. Since they went to a bilingual school, he was a little behind in his Spanish but by the end of the year he was speaking good Spanish.

It was a little more challenging for Lucas to learn online. Kindergarten is a crucial year in learning, since a lot of base learning is in this year. Lucas did an amazing job learning at school for that last month. I wish he had the whole year in person!

Timothy well ... he went with Aleyda and I to Proyecto Brazos de Jesus to work with us. Timothy started attending a class at the Project but ended up just going to the office with Aleyda to color and to work with his numbers. All three are growing and have been healthy since we came back to the field last June.



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