

In Focus

Mano con Mano Health Reach Newsletter
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Recap of 2006

Nim Jay-Yalu

With 2006 coming to an end, here is a re-counting of the events of Mano con Mano in Guatemala:

January: Construction of feeding center in Yalu continues. Feeding continues by giving dry goods to prepare at home, since kitchen fixtures are yet to be purchased. Wall dividing kitchen and dining room constructed and cabinets for kitchen and eating equipment built. Susan and Memo visit first grandson born at end of December in St. Louis-brrrr! Lorenzo Canel Pirir begins his second year of seminary studies and the church in Yalu meets weekly.

February: Student team of juniors from Memo's school comes to work in feeding center in Yalu. Some work actually done; much fooling around also accomplished. Basketball/soccer court poured as well as program and movie night for Yalu children provided in excellent fashion by students (who speak fluent Spanish!). Team from Heart Lake Baptist Church comes and paints the dining room and Sunday school classrooms.

March: Construction on feeding center continues. Kitchen sinks, counters and food preparation tables purchased (through grant from ACH Foundation).



Yalu sun streams in new windows on women's ministry day

April: Construction on main building almost completed. "Viveres" (dry goods) program continues with over 30 families fed three times each week. Susan works in the clinic while both Memo and Susan remain involved in construction and support of fledging church in Yalu.

May: Construction nearly finished. Six women from the village hired as cooks. Food is purchased...and the feeding center officially opens May 15, 2006, with approximately 150 children, expectant mothers and widows being fed. Thanks to God, the vision is realized. Susan and Memo go through an exceptionally hard time, but God is there for them, also.

June: Team of 24 from University of California, Davis comes to Guatemala to help with health care. Five doctors, a dentist, and medical students provide health screening, dental work, and finish their visit with a children's program and movie night for the people of Yalu. Jesus is shared with all attending, and some decisions to accept Christ are made at the end of the program. One woman who prayed to receive Jesus is soon diagnosed with liver cancer (at age 48) and dies the following October. Perhaps as a result of that night, she is now in heaven. Little Juana Griselda (2 ½ months) has surgery to repair a cleft lip.



Grace Church Team installs fencing in Yalu

July: A team of 14 men, women, and youth from Grace Community Covenant Church, Olympia, Washington arrives for a week of construction help, sewing classes (4 sewing machines are brought by this team), knitting classes and cooking instruction. Fence surrounding sports court erected ("llaves de Estilson" used extensively), and week concluded with movie night complete with snacks for over 400 in attendance. July 28-September 16 Susan and Memo return to U.S. for family and church visits.



August: Guatemalan team runs the Yalu feeding center, continues construction and clinic ministry while all the “gringo missionaries” are traveling in the U.S. Feeding continues three times each week, and clinic kept open twice each week with Dr. Efrain Teleguario providing care. Guatemalan ministry partners do a GREAT job.

September: Short term team from Seattle Community Church arrives with two doctors, a dentist and an oral surgeon, as well as construction workers and “hair styling specialists.” Many dental patients are seen, health care is provided, and the “bones” of a columpio (swing set/playground) are constructed. A special outing is taken to Guatemala City’s Korea Center—no Koreans were found there!



Andrew Hwang-Bo giving haircuts

October: Several surgeries are performed (paid for by donations to MCM and Hands of Hope) including a hip repair on a one year old boy, hernia repair on another one year old. Columpio completed—however concrete slab under slide—uh, oh! Rubber mats purchased to prevent injuries! Cooking staff trained, used clothing sold (really, really cheap), office and sewing room equipped, prenatal checkups given. The “**NIM JAY**,” feeding center’s new name in Kaqchikel for “big house”, also meaning **N**utricion **I**nfantil/**M**aternal (because **J**esus **A**ma (loves) **Y**alu, is in FULL SWING!

November: Feeding continues three times a week. Enrollment increased to 175 with hopes to end the year with 250 mothers and children receiving nutritious lunches. Nearly every family in Yalu has been visited and evaluated for nutritional status and need. Another retaining wall is built (making 8!) and finishing touches are being put on many places. Thanks to our wonderful God—the daily deluge of rain stops.



Construction report

The feeding center in Yalu, now called NIM JAY by the locals, is in the final stages of construction. Considerable painting and some exterior work on the building, as well as walkways, another retaining wall (check the original picture of the land before building and you can understand the need for so many retaining walls), and fencing needs to be completed. However, the building is almost completely functional, including bathrooms, sewing room, office, Sunday school classroom, kitchen, and dining room. Outside are a three-quarter size basketball/papifutbol court and a “casita” to keep tired missionaries from driving at night. Our hope is to complete all additional construction by the end of January. The feeding center is the largest building in the entire area and is a testimony of God’s provision and faithful support of so many of you. We thank you---the people of Yalu thank you---and God thanks you.

What does the Future Hold for Yalu?

Feeding will continue with more children and mothers being added as the capability and efficiency of the staff increase and funds are freed up as construction costs decrease. Sewing classes, a chicken project, English classes, weekly church services, and more disbursement of clothes (brought by teams), movie nights, and other events continue to be part of the “Nim Jay” ministry. It is the hope and vision of Mano con Mano that this building becomes more than a place where people are fed, but in actuality, a ministry center. Future teams from the U.S. and even Mexico will be able to use the building as a central place to reach out to the community of Yalu, teaching, encouraging, and guiding the people through God’s love. These services were not part of the original scope of the building, but it became evident as the building was constructed that God could use this structure in many ways to minister to the people beyond just feeding them. What does the future hold for the “Nim Jay”---only God knows, and it has become apparent that He reveals it in His time. We just seem to be “along for the ride.”

Some of the ideas that we are hoping to develop in the future would include civic health improvement projects. Hopefully a wall will be constructed by the Muni (municipal government agency) so that we can completely improve and rebuild the public washing/laundry/bathing area. Another project we hope to begin is the building of individual home toilet/bathing structures.

Currently, many families have no toilet or personal washing area. Without even a latrine to use, children use their yards as a “bathroom” compounding the risk of diarrhea and parasites. Teaching the community how to control contamination of the land, streets and their homes would create a major impact on the health of Yalu’s people. The replacement of the water pipe system made the first step in this pursuit. There is so much to be done—thankfully, God gets to plan these projects. We just stumble along as best we can, sort of like the people of Israel in the wilderness during those 40 years. Short term teams can help implement these projects, but the work is hard and very dirty. We’ve learned that there is always a bit of sweat, dirt and illness involved in “worship.” Oh, yeah, and lots of your prayers!



Chicken Coop Project from Visalia, B-ball hoops from UC Davis!
Clinic Report

With **Greg and Anita Giagnacavo’s** return to the U.S. for a season of work and family time, the clinic went through a time of transition in 2006. **Lety Amesguita**, pharmacy technician, became the clinic administrator and has done an outstanding job. **Rosario Chajon** continues to greet and register patients, bringing them to Jesus or praying for those in need. **Dr. Jim Hines**, in his second season of working eight months of the year in Guatemala, brings over 20 years of medical practice experience, a heart for the lost, medicines and extra funding. **Susan Jones, NP**, continues to work in the clinic and prenatal programs. **Dr. Efrain Teleguario** joined the team in May, making it possible for Anita, Susan and Dr. Jim to all be in the U.S. simultaneously and still keep the clinic open. Dr. Efrain’s ability to speak Kaqchikel and understand cultural and living conditions has been a major asset to the clinic. Four local women have become trained to clean, translate and assist with procedures. They also provide “after hours” care, emergency advice and give injections on the days that the clinic is closed. In the spring, **Yoka Zeller, RN/Nurse Midwife**, joined the clinic staff and has taken over much of the prenatal and newborn care. In an

effort to meet the needs of more patients, the clinic schedule was changed to work around the harvest. We have completed 18 months of providing monthly prenatal care in Yalu, and have seen the birth of 76 healthy babies, including one set of twins. Many of these mothers are now enrolled in the feeding center in Yalu as a result of diagnosing nutritional problems during their pregnancies. We have had a variety of North American missionaries volunteer their time throughout the year. **Kay Hines, Karen Leier, Terri Tjaden, RN, Petra Wirrell and Patty Turnbow** have all helped check in patients, work in the pharmacy, care for crying babies and pray with patients in need. It is a blessing to see how God calls people to provide for the needs of the people of El Arado, Santa Marta and Yalu in this way. Anita has been able to make three short term trips to help in the clinic and remain connected to the staff and the patients. There is always a buzz of excitement when the words “Anita is coming” start to spread in the three villages. Greg and Anita continue to raise funds and manage the clinic from their home base in Colorado.

Special Needs



Jerson Isaias and his mom Justina after surgery
Jerson Isaias Grande Turuy was born in April 2005 with a dysplastic left hip and a left knee that bent 90 degrees in the wrong direction. After many failed attempts to have his leg surgically repaired in a government hospital, MCM was able to arrange for surgery in a private hospital in October 2006. Jerson Isaias is doing great. He has another two years of casts, splints and therapy ahead before he will be walking normally. Thank you for giving to the Special Needs Fund to make things like this possible. Jerson’s parents prayed to accept Jesus as their Savior the night before his surgery while they were being loved and cared for by Rosario in her home.

Sara Victoria Guamuch Canel has continued to grow and mature into a healthy toddler. She is facing cleft palate surgery in November as part of a series of surgeries that began in 2005 to repair her lip and palate. You may remember that Sara Victoria spent her first 24 hours with us as her mother recovered from a difficult birth.



Juana Griselda Raxon (above) has healed beautifully from her cleft lip surgery in June, and is a chubby baby that is

thriving while she awaits her palate repair in another 18 months.

Brandon Jose Canel Canel, is now over two years old and learning to talk. He is able to sit alone, eat solid food, ask for water, call his brother and sister and recognize many faces. Brandon had two brain surgeries and spent seven months of his first year near death in the hospital. This summer teams from the U.S. came to help build a house for Brandon and his family so that he can be raised on his grandparents' land near the feeding center and church in Yalu. Brandon's father, Rodrigo, has worked faithfully on the construction in Yalu for over a year and has learned some skills that will help him better support his family in the future. Please continue to pray for the family's spiritual growth as well as physical wellbeing.



**Yalu Renuevo Church meeting in Nim Jay with Grace team
Unsung heroes**

Often it's the pastors or missionaries that get the "credit" for what is accomplished in a work like this. We'd like to introduce you to a few of the people that have made so much of this ministry possible. **Pedro Espana**, a builder with an elementary school education, first came to us as the father of two little malnourished girls. We began buying food for their family that lived on the hill above our home and then hired Pedro to build a patio for our rented home. To our delight, he did a great job and we later hired him to build us an entire house. He proved to be faithful, hardworking and honest with a deep love of the Lord. Pedro helped us begin the construction in Yalu. He has turned into not only construction foreman, but financial administrator, purchaser, human resources manager and project supervisor. He prays with the workers and shines a quiet love over everything that he does. He never takes the credit, but the Nim Jay wouldn't exist without Pedro's dedication and skill.

Maria Juana Can Puluc, met Susan when her husband, Lorenzo Canel Pirir, became very ill and was unable to work. The entire family came to Christ in 2004, and Maria Juana began volunteering in the clinic to learn basic health promoter skills. Over time it was obvious that her organizational skills, bright mind and heart for the Lord would make her a great feeding center director. She has fed and cared for the women and children of Yalu from her home and now the feeding center, since early 2005. She plans menus, purchases food, recruits and trains cooking staff, and oversees the delivery of over 500 nutritious meals each week. At the same time she raises

four young children, supports her husband in the pastorate and seminary, and manages a crop of tomatoes and guicoy (squash) during the growing season. People come to her house if they need stitches, an ambulance, or a prayer. She cries with the suffering and laughs easily and often. All the cooks say she is a great boss, and Susan will tell you that she is a dear friend and sister in Christ.



Maria Juana and Lorenzo, Pedro and Nohemi Geronimo Chavac, a humble man in his early forties with six children, will tell you that he never went to school. He grew up on a farm working hard as a little child. He never grew to his full potential height due to poor nutrition and too much work as a child. He has few teeth, but a winning smile. He is "Don Memo's" favorite worker because Geronimo is the first to jump into a ditch to help fill sandbags, the first to carry heavy block on his back, to dig a ditch or to carry the groceries to the kitchen if asked. He arrives at work early and stays late. He never complains, but gets joy out of serving. Geronimo serves his family, his neighbors and the Lord Jesus with his attitude, his smile and his hard work. We are striving to make sure that Geronimo knows that Jesus loves him, just as he is, and that there is a place waiting for him in paradise someday. When you have felt small and worthless your entire life, it is hard to believe that God has something special in store for you.

These are just three of the nearly 20 full-time workers that you have helped support through Mano con Mano during 2006. Thank you for your faithfulness and for helping "regular people" reach their potential as heroes within their communities. We can't wait to see what God does in 2007!



Geronimo, left, with Nasario, Leonardo, Francisco and Joneses

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