

The Desires of their Heart

He came to Impact Ministries as a student in Grade 6. A mischief-maker in the public school system, his parents hoped a Christian school would “straighten him out”. At first, everything was strange – especially the exuberant singing during devotional times. It didn’t take long, though, for the worship to become his favourite time of the day; a place of refuge and safety. It was during one of these special moments of intimacy with God that Hector poured out his heart and told the Lord that he wanted to become both a teacher and a pastor one day.

She came to “check out” Impact Ministries some years later, after graduating as a teacher. She had asked three things of the Lord: to help her to become a teacher, to find her a place to serve Him, and to find the right man to become her husband. She was fascinated when, at a teacher’s meeting, everyone was encouraged to fast and pray for one student suffering from many problems. “Is there another school,” Ericka thought, “where teachers are willing to sacrifice to help one single child?”

Hector and Ericka both served as Vida teachers for a few years. Then principals. Today, Ericka is the superintendent overseeing all ten of the Impact Ministries Vida Schools. And Hector has recently been ordained to serve as a pastor for the Rio de Vida Church, founded by Impact Ministries more than 15 years ago.

God is giving them the desires of their heart. In 2008, despite being opposite in character, personality, and tastes, Hector and Ericka were married.

“You will serve the Lord together in ways that we can’t even imagine and He will guide you and provide for you,” Pastors Les and Rita declared over them on their wedding day. They never imagined how real those words would be!

“Our call is to serve the people,” say Hector and Ericka. “Many times we think: ‘Why Lord Jesus? Why us? We are not capable; we are so small.’ And He answers: ‘When you are weak, then I am strong in you. And then it is no longer you doing everything, but I in you.’ In this we rest!”

We are thankful that Hector and Ericka have been called to Impact Ministries: “It is where we are called to serve, to raise up leaders, to love and extend God’s grace; the same grace that the Lord gives to us,” say Hector and Ericka. “We are full of joy here, we are challenged to believe and to be faithful to that which the Lord has placed in our hands. Simply said: we are in awe of what our heavenly Father is doing!”

We are hoping that Hector can join Les in Canada in October. Please pray for Hector’s travel visa to come through!



Hector and Ericka and their family.

Back to School

September is back to school time in Canada, and what better way to mark the season than by connecting with a class in Guatemala! Join Hector and Ericka in raising and inspiring young leaders by supporting a class in one of our Vida schools. Check out details and our featured classes at www.impactministries.ca/supportaclass.

Bonus! If you’re one of the first 40 people to support a class at \$50/month, an additional \$250 will be donated towards health benefits for our teachers, thanks to a generous donor.



Ericka placing cap on a graduating student



Hector sharing the gospel

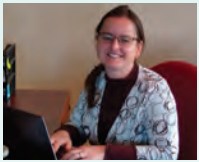
Celebrating Impact Staff & Volunteers!

What keeps a ministry going? Truly it is God who supplies all we need, from donations to staff members to volunteers. We celebrate all that God has provided, including these, our amazing staff and volunteers. Here are a few:



Mel Jackson (Calgary), our volunteer Events Coordinator handles the schedule. She organizes Les' time in Canada, from speaking engagements and preaching in churches to mission committee meetings and coffee with friends. We're so grateful! See some of Mel's handiwork on our events calendar at www.impactministries.ca/events.

Mel will also be reconnecting with alumni from our previous mission trips. If you know any alumni who have lost touch with us, invite them to reconnect at friends@impactministries.ca.



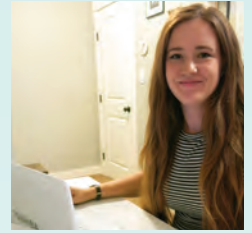
Michele Wiens (Kamloops), our Communications Coordinator, started with Impact Ministries Canada early this year. We are pleased to welcome Michele in this much needed role of telling the stories of what God

is doing in Guatemala through Impact Ministries. Michele comes to us with a decade of experience working with nonprofits and is an incredible blessing in our Canadian office as she coordinates our newsletter, website, social media presence and more. Thank you, Michele! Welcome to our team!



Edgar Suc (Tactic), one of our Ministerios Impacto Board Members in Guatemala, manages our agricultural program in Tactic. Edgar has an engineering degree in agriculture, and under his capable

supervision, our agricultural project is consistently producing crops. Thanks to Edgar, vegetables are delivered to the school kitchens each week where our cooks prepare delicious and nutritious meals for the Vida schoolchildren.



Let us introduce you to a few more of our volunteers:

- **Libby** is part of our translation team, helping translate our students' cards from Spanish to English so you can hear from your sponsor children
- **Wendy** organizes a group of volunteers in Calgary to send you our newsletters
- **Adriana** joins Wendy's "envelope stuffing parties" to get our newsletters into your mailbox
- **Steven**, who is a software engineer, is writing a program for our medical records in the Tactic clinic
- **Bev** helps keep our database up-to-date by following up on undeliverable addresses
- **Cam** helps organize local events when Les is in Winnipeg
- **Eric & Erna** use their videography and photography skills when they travel to Tactic to capture professional photos and video footage for us
- **Hoydi** volunteers as a consultant in various areas in the technical realm

>> **Want to volunteer too? Check out our website www.impactministries.ca/volunteer for posted opportunities, or connect with us directly with your ideas. There are lots of ways to volunteer, and we would love to have you on board!**

**Watch
Your
Giving
Grow**



Your donations allow us to purchase a variety of local seeds.



We plant the seeds, growing crops such as tomatoes, green peppers, and beets.



Each week, we harvest and sort basketfuls of seasonal vegetables.



Save the Date to take a Bite out of Hunger

Save the date - #GivingTuesday is on November 28th this year, and we want to match the 30,000+ meals for kids that were provided last year thanks to our #NoHungryChildren campaign. We know that children can focus and learn better with their tummies full, and for some of our Vida kids, the meal they get at school is the only one of the day. Take a bite out of hunger - \$10 provides 25 nutritious meals!

Watch your inbox and your Facebook feed on November 28th to join the #NoHungryChildren campaign!

>> **Don't want to wait until #GivingTuesday to take a bite out of hunger? Consider giving to our agricultural project to help us grow our own vegetables to supplement our meals: www.impactministries.ca/agriculture**



Staff trip to Guatemala



In July, staff from all three Impact Ministries offices - Guatemala, Canada, and the United States - had a chance to meet together in Guatemala, casting vision, sharing testimonies, and getting to know one another more. This trip was designed to bring us together in unity as we seek God's face to lead us! How thankful we are for the beautiful people in all three offices who diligently work, day in and day out, on the various details and tasks that keep the ministry going.

Giving Opportunities

Here's a short list of the giving opportunities highlighted in this newsletter:

- **Support a Class** - www.impactministries.ca/supportaclass
- **Orphan Care** - www.impactministries.ca/orphancare
- **Agriculture Project** - www.impactministries.ca/agriculture
- **#NoHungryKids** - watch your inbox & facebook feed on November 28th!

For more ways to give, check out www.impactministries.ca/donate, fill out the enclosed remittance form and mail it to our office, or call us at (250) 434-4350. Thanks for making an impact!



The children and teachers extended a warm and lavish welcome as we visited their schools, making us feel so loved. Our time in Guatemala was encouraging! We have come home with hearts full and with renewed energy.



Some are trucked to all our Vida schools...



where our cooks include them in nutritious meals for our students...



who can concentrate and learn better with full tummies!



The rest are sold on the domestic market to help make Impact Ministries sustainable.

Children's Home Update

It's been five years since the Impact Ministries "Orphanage Committee" was formed, made up of Guatemalans and a few Canadians who are passionate about caring for the needs of orphaned and abandoned babies. The baby home is up! The paperwork is almost ready to submit to the government authorities in Guatemala for approval to open. This summer, a delegation from our orphanage committee met with the government ministry responsible for approving new children's homes. They recognize the tremendous need to care for abandoned babies and are grateful for the initiative that Impact Ministries is taking. There is still more to be done and more funds to raise as we prepare!



Please pray with us in these final stages leading up to the opening of the Children's Home. Of course, this is just the beginning, and we look forward to sharing our excitement as we progress.

>> **To donate towards to the Children's Home see www.impactministries.ca/orphancare**

Sponsorship Team Update

By Marisa McClain

Why should you join a sponsorship team? LOVE! Showing the love of Christ to children through hugs, smiles and prayers as you make home or classroom visits. Feeling the love of Christ as these same children lay hands on you and pray for God's blessing in your lives. Seeing the love of Christ in action as you witness the lives of children, and often their entire families, transformed by the gospel. Bringing our two daughters on this trip was one of the best things we could ever do with them and for them!



The McClain family visited their sponsor child and the class they support in July as part of the 2017 Sponsorship/Family Team.

>> **APPLY NOW for the next sponsorship/family team, scheduled for August 7-17th, 2018 at www.impactministries.ca/teams**

Fall Schedule

Les will be in Canada this fall. He will be joined by Rita & son Tim for the first portion of his trip. And, if Hector's travel visa comes through, he'll be joining Les for the second portion.



Below are a few of the places you'll be able to find Les. See www.impactministries.ca/events for details and additional events.

- **September 17** – 10:30am at Sherbrooke Mennonite, 7155 Sherbrooke St., Vancouver, BC
- **September 24** – 9:30am at Vancouver Chinese Baptist Church, 7474 Culloden St., Vancouver, BC
- **October 1** – 10:00am at Northstar Fellowship Baptist Church, 301 North Star Road, Quesnel, BC
- **October 27-29** – Edmonton Christian Community Church Missions Conference, 8810 - 65th Ave., Edmonton, AB

>> **If Les is in your area and you would like to set up a meeting with your church, home group, or missions committee, please let us know by contacting our events coordinator, Mel, at friends@impactministries.ca**

Please note that due to circumstances, we've decided to postpone Friends of Impact events in Eastern Canada to a future season.

Serving in Guatemala

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Has your address, email or phone number changed? Update your contact info here:

www.update.impactministries.ca