OBRAS DE AMOR: Labors of Love

Imagine being five years old and going to school in a place where the teacher is speaking a language you don't understand. You're supposed to learn and pass tests to be promoted to the next grade level. All the tests are written in that same mysterious language, and you quickly discover that you may never comprehend your lessons. You try your best for several years without succeeding, and you finally drop out.

This is what is happening to Mayan children in Guatemala where the national language is Spanish. The Mayans speak Quiche (kee-chay). After repeated failures in Spanish-speaking classes, the children are discouraged and leave. They will not be able to find well-paying jobs or integrate into the broader society due to lack of education.

That's where OBRAS DE AMOR comes in. This lovely preschool nestled into the side of a lush hillside is a welcoming environment for the indigenous preschoolers in the village of Patzibal on the outskirts of Chichicastenango. Work centers entice them to learn reading, numerals, foods and nutrition, occupations, shapes, and all the prerequisites to successfully enter first grade. The school is equipped with new XO computers, and the little ones participate while proudly dressed in their colorful uniforms.

The parents, too, are becoming more engaged with the educational process as they see the loving accommodations being made for their children. The idea of
developing a Parent-Teacher Organization is being discussed, and trained volunteers are taking spots in the teaching schedule.

This little school is on a ledge that overlooks the road below. A wall is needed to ensure that the children don’t fall into the road. Total cost of the wall is between $2500-$3000, each cinder block being about $1.00 ($ .63 + cement, rebar, and labor). If you’d like to help these little ones with their wall, just send your check to DWTX/World Missions, PO Box 6885, San Antonio, TX 78209. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OBRAS DE AMOR, CONTACT NANCY SPRINGER at 956-428-2305 or KAITLIN REED-ROGERS at 210-824-5387. We look forward to seeing how DWTX can strengthen our partnership with this budding outreach to the future scholars of Guatemala.

SAVE THE DATES

October 30, 2017. TOP GOLF FRIENDRAISER. All proceeds go to Hurricane Harvey Relief.

November 11, 2017. WORLD MISSION SYMPOSIUM (rescheduled).

2017 DWTX World Mission Trips Announced

October 4-7 - Clergy & Lay Leaders' Conference (SE Mexico) - David Chalk, Marthe Curry
November 14-18 - Veterinary & Water Treatment (SE Mexico) - Jacque Baker, Bill Campagne, John Dodds, Paul Martin, Melinda Page, Tony Price, Laura Willis
Fall (TBA) - Threads of Blessing (Uganda) - Team Leaders, Helen & Garry Schnelzer