

Father to the fatherless

in Guatemala City

June 2010



Ivan felt trapped. A cold chill shot up his spine as he froze listening to the voice on the other end of the line. “We’re going to kill your sister if you don’t give us the money.” Then he remembered the exercises we’d been doing. “*Whenever I’m afraid I will trust in you, oh Lord.*” He took a deep breath and exhaled slowly as the young demonic voice on the phone tried to intimidate him again but was suddenly disconnected.

Murderous gangs of children have become a plague in Guatemala City. According to the news, many are organized by the M18 and M13 Central American street gangs that arose during the late 90’s in Los Angeles, and were deported. Their leaders now reside in Guatemalan prisons from which they operate.

Ivan is one of the young men we’ve been “*fathering*” in the Lord. Many **20 to 30 year olds** in Guatemalan Churches are desperate to learn the character skills needed for marriage and parenting. If nothing changes and they continue without these skills, 9 out of 10 will bring 1, 2 or 3 babies into the world in the next 10 years (and these babies will be fatherless); only 3½ of these 10 will have been married and 2 of those will have divorced, 6 will be living in common law, 9½ will have had multiple sexual partners and only 3 to 4 may still think they’re “Christian”. This is happening because Churches **entertain** rather than focus on being a community whose families impart life to one another in Jesus.

Helen and I are addressing this problem by training them in the character skills they lack. Beginning with the joy that comes from the presence of Jesus with them, they are learning to like being who they are. They learn to share joy, calm themselves down, form two-way and family bonds (synchronize attachment), create appreciation, identify their true heart values in suffering, tell synchronized stories about themselves, their family and God’s family, among other skills. By helping them mature in this way they’ll have the peace and value they need to eventually study the Scriptures.

Helen and I continue to direct the INSTE program in Guatemala until a Guatemalan replacement steps forward for that responsibility. Thank you for praying for a new **Guatemalan director** for INSTE.

Two days after returning from mission conference in the States, our car blew head gaskets and cost **\$600 to repair**. It will hopefully be ready by the end of this week. If you could help us with this financial need we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

Thank you for your prayers and support. You’re love is deeply felt and appreciated.

Steve and Helen Cobb
Globe International

Needs:

- **\$600 car repair**
- **Guatemalan director for INSTE**
- **Prayer for our safety**