

Jardín de Gracia



Mid Year Report 2018

As of July 2018, we are prayerfully moving forward on the new part of the school (7-9th grades) and if you want to pray with us, we would be so honored. If you want to donate towards the new school expansion, we'd be so thankful. We've moved a lot of dirt this season & we are pleased with the process so far. James' article on the next page should have more detailed information!

We have hosted half our teams! Our teams this year, have helped move dirt, painted all the metal bars at the school and varnished the doors. This seems like a small job but it keeps our buildings safe and secure. We live in a tropical environment, so there's always a lot of moisture trying to rust our metal and rot our wood. The teams have run a family night where all the families were invited to play games and enjoy a special time together. We also worked together on a VBS - lots of crafts, games, singing and dancing and learning about Jesus. We have enjoyed every second of this group season and hope that the teams that came down, also grew in their faith and as a core group for their respective churches.

Our Great Expectation teacher training is coming up soon and we can't wait! We plan to take the teachers off campus to the beach where they will have in depth classes to strengthen their skills. We have field trips planned for October and celebrations all through the month of September! It's the downhill slide as we enter the third 9 weeks here at our little school on the mountain. Please keep us in your prayers.

Futbol is life - all the time



Soccer season is an intense time at Jardín de Gracia. We compete against all of the other private schools in our city of Siguatepeque. We are by far the smallest and poorest school that participates, but that doesn't keep our kids from scoring big and winning lots of medals! This year we worked really hard & scored a trophy in all 3 categories. Our big boys won 3rd place, our girls took 4th place and our little guys took first place! We also won medals for best goalie in both big boys and little boys, as well as highest scoring player in both boys categories!

Our players are smaller than almost all the other teams but we are fast and strong. The kids are so proud of the gains that they made this season and give all the Glory to God.



It's happening...



As the dirt moves on the other property, we can see it happening at the original school. The kids see stuff that is happening around them but I never know if they actually KNOW what is happening. Do they know how it will impact their lives? Do they have any idea about the work that it takes to construct the school? Do they even think about that dirt, or do they just see it moving... Will this be worth the cost?

I was sitting with some of the after school girls the other day & we were looking across the street at the south campus together. I asked "What's happening over there?", "A colegio (high school)" they both replied giggling. I then asked if they were going to attend that school. "Of course!" said one little girl. "Yes, I think so..." said the other. Then I asked what they wanted to be at the end of high school and I gave them some options in case they didn't understand my question "Teacher, Doctor, Secretary, Mom...?" and one that has more options just giggled a little and said "teacher" the other one looked at me straight in the eyes & said "I want to grow up and make enough money that my family is safe and healthy." Yes then, they get it. They see the dream for their families. This girl's mom in particular just had a baby & they have struggled to buy food. She wants something better & we are a huge part of her big plan for her life. It's worth it all.

Isaiah 40:3-4 He goes before us

Things on the south campus are moving along nicely. The septic tank is finished and has been buried. The two retaining walls are completed. The lower one keeps the land from covering the leach field and the upper one holds back the dirt upon which the school will sit. The lower area will become a soccer field for the new school. The earth has been leveled on the upper level and they have begun to dig the footers.

This was no small feat. In order to prepare the ground they had to move a lot of packed earth. We did this all by hand. We had a work weekend where the fathers of the school volunteered to dig out the hill on the property we have begun to call the south campus. Jardin de Gracia provided lunch and the dads provided the muscle. The moms even got in on the project by preparing lunch for everyone. About 60 dads came on Saturday and 40 came Sunday, they move about 270 cubic meters of rock and dirt in those two days. It was a great start.

To move the rest, we employed 6 men who are family of students to work. We purposefully dug this all by hand. We could have hired a machine to come in and do all this work. However, volunteer dads give our families buy-in and ownership on this project and paying fathers of students from the school to do the work has a greater impact on our community.

With everything prepped and the proper permits acquired we are ready to see something on the site that looks like a building. I have talked with the foreman of this job, also from our village, about the time table and will there be a classroom for a 7th grade class in February. He assures me it will be ready.

As a mission, we are always watching, testing, and checking if what we are doing is aligning with Gods direction. We pray and seek daily which way to go. So as I talked with the foreman, I asked, "How much to get the school to where can have a classroom for 7th grade?" Its came as a great comfort to see his estimate was within a couple hundred dollars of the money we have on hand in Honduras. When this happens, as it often does, I remember that God goes before us and this time the verse in Isaiah that says he also flattens the mountains seems like it was written for us.

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