



Juan Carlos, Dayana, Patrick, Mark & John overlooking Guatemala

GUATEMALA MISSION

Dear Friend,

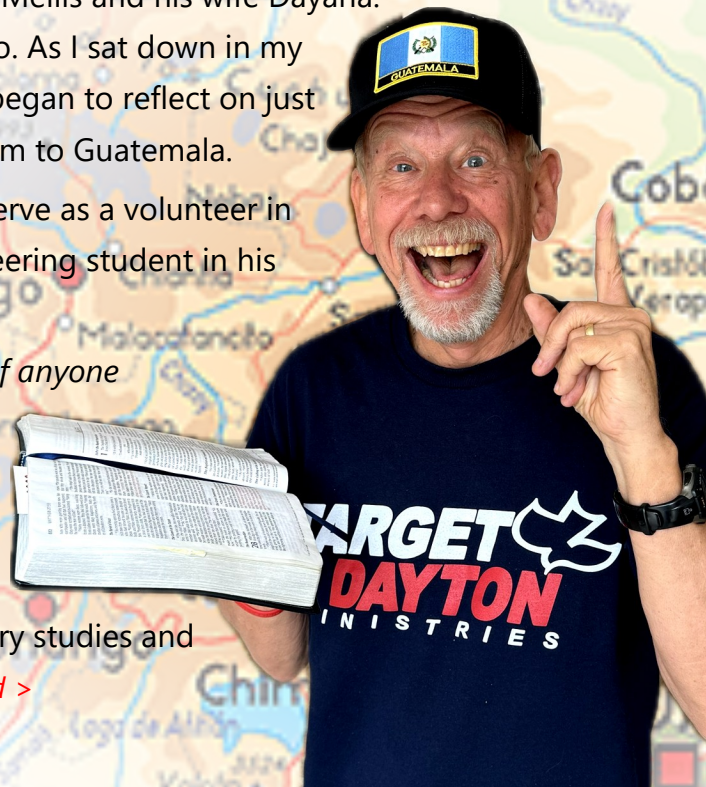
Last month on April 1, I boarded an early morning Delta Airlines flight bound for Central America for my first mission trip to the country of Guatemala!

I was escorted by our very own missionaries Patrick Mellis and his wife Dayana. John Mitchell (our TD worship pastor) went with me too. As I sat down in my seat and buckled my seatbelt, tears filled my eyes as I began to reflect on just how amazing it was that I was making this trip with them to Guatemala.

Patrick came to Target Dayton for the first time to serve as a volunteer in a morning service thirteen years ago. He was an engineering student in his senior year at the University of Dayton at that time.

I preached that day on Matthew 16:24. Jesus said, *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."* At the end of my sermon, Patrick answered Christ's call to ministry and he never looked back!

Upon graduation, Patrick enrolled in pastoral ministry studies and worked in fulltime ministry at Target Dayton... *continued >*



before answering God's call to be a missionary in Guatemala eight years ago.

His beautiful wife Dayana is one of the first persons he led to Christ and disciplined in Guatemala. She too answered Christ's call to ministry! She and Patrick got married two years ago and they are now working together in ministry to establish and grow a church in Guatemala in partnership with Target Dayton.



After many hours of air travel, layovers and flight changes we eventually landed in Guatemala City. Dayana's older brother, Juan Carlos, picked us up at the airport. Juan Carlos surrendered his life to Christ last year as a result of Patrick and Dayana's witness. He is now preparing for the ministry to help establish their new church.

As we made the perilous six-hour road trip through the mountains to their apartment in the city of Huehuetenango (pronounced way-way-ten-an-go), I kept thinking how "God-size" incredible it is that an engineering student from UD gave his life to Christ in our ministry thirteen years ago, came to Guatemala, learned the language, made the perilous journey into the mountains in the poorest part of the country and started leading people to Jesus with the fire of God in his heart.



Patrick helped me for over four years to reach people in Dayton for Christ. What a blessing it was for me to finally get to help him reach people in Guatemala for nine days! I made home visits, led discipleship meetings, preached at their outreach event on Saturday night and at their church on Sunday morning... all with Patrick or Dayana translating! I loved it!

It's hard to express the joy I still feel from getting to meet some of the beautiful people Patrick and Dayana have reached for Christ so far. For example, let me tell you about David and his wife Valeska and their beautiful family...

Patrick connected with David a few years ago by teaching English as a second language. Patrick then led David to Christ and began discipling him. As a result, David convinced his wife Valeska to attend Patrick and Dayana's new church with their three kids. At the time, Valeska was suffering with depression and their marriage was on the brink of divorce.

But Dayana reached out to Valeska and began discipling her and led her to Christ. Valeska shared her beautiful testimony with me, with tears streaming down her face, about how Dayana had helped her to finally understand the gospel and surrender to Christ to be born again. She shared how Christ had saved her marriage and how the Holy Spirit was working in her life to be a godly wife and mother to her three kids.



During the week I was there, Patrick baptized David and Valeska's daughter Valentina at a community park. The whole family gathered together with the rest of the people from Patrick



PASTOR JOHN led worship and I preached John 3:7 while Patrick translated my message into Spanish!

Patrick and Dayana’s first “Target-Dayton-like” evangelistic service in downtown Huehuetenango was an overwhelming success! We preached the gospel and many prayed to give their lives to Christ!

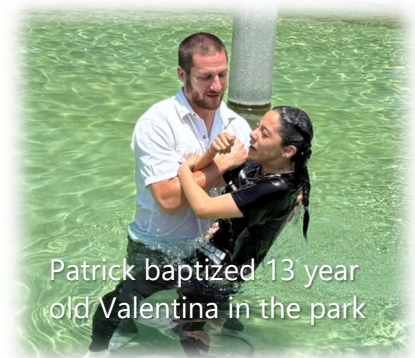
and Dayana’s church for the baptism and Patrick preached the gospel. Then, with tears running down her cheeks, Valentina gave the most beautiful, clear testimony I have ever heard from someone so young. Please pray for the many others in her extended family who were there that day, so they will surrender to Christ in the days ahead.

On Saturday night Patrick and Dayana held their first big evangelistic event in the parking area of a popular coffee shop in busy downtown Huehuetenango. Patrick and Dayana invited friends, family and everyone they could, including people walking down the street, to come in for free coffee and sandwiches (just like we do at Target Dayton) and hear the preachers from the United States.

Pastor John led everyone in worship and I preached on John 3:7, “*You must be born again!*” (which Patrick translated into Spanish for everyone who was there). Over fifty people attended the service and many prayed at the end to repent and give their lives to Christ! Wow! How wonderful is that? And I guess that makes me an international evangelist now!

On Sunday morning some new people were in the church service, along with additional family and friends who came to hear the special guests from the United States. I told them I came 2000 miles with a message from Jesus for them: it takes a miracle to go to heaven! I preached what Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:1-7. Religion isn’t enough! It takes the miracle of being born again to enter the kingdom of God!

The Holy Spirit moved people’s hearts to pray to be born again and we closed the service with a beautiful time of prayer. Then the whole church gathered around us, laid hands on us and took turns praying for us. I think we were all crying when we finished. *continued >*



Patrick baptized 13 year old Valentina in the park



The coffee shop in downtown Huehuetenango



Patrick & Dayana’s church praying for us

My first morning back home from Guatemala, I got on my knees and just cried my heart out in tears of gratitude for all the amazing ways Christ is using Target Dayton to save souls and change the world. When Cindi and I answered His call 30 years ago to be missionaries in the inner city, we never imagined how many people's lives would be changed or how far reaching our decision would be in the years ahead... all the way to Guatemala... AND BACK!



Patrick, Dayana and Juan Carlos will be back at Target Dayton this summer to lead our first evangelistic event to reach the thousands of Hispanics in our city for Christ!!

Will you please donate to help us with all our special outreach events this summer including a Summer Outdoor Crusade at the Levitt Pavilion in downtown Dayton? And if you are not already a monthly supporter will you please pray about becoming one? Your monthly gift of \$25, \$50 or even more will make it possible for us to continue this life-changing ministry!

Thank you for your prayers and your support! Please request your free copy of **"IN HIS STEPS"** as our gift of appreciation for your help! This book will inspire your faith!

Remember, Jesus said, *"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation!"* (Mark 16:15). Let's save many more souls and change the world for Jesus in 2025!

Pastor Mark & Cindi

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE!

Through your service & monthly support...

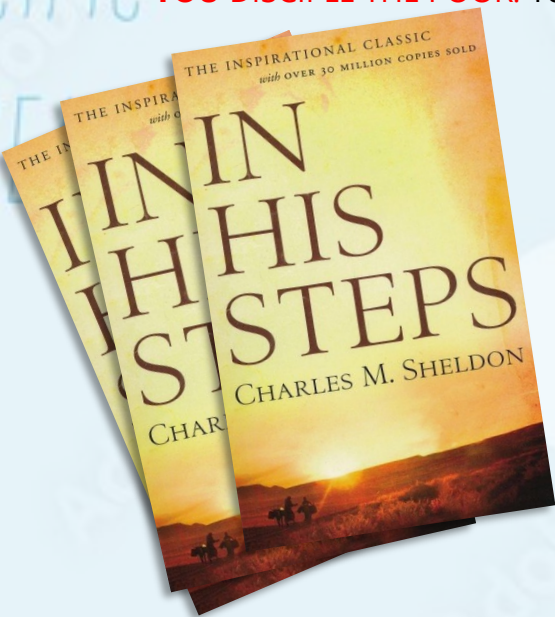
YOU BRING THE POOR: You give them a ride to get the help they need...

YOU FEED THE POOR: You feed them with free hot breakfast or dinner...

YOU CLOTHE THE POOR: You clothe them with shirts, socks, shoes, hats, gloves & coats...

YOU SAVE THE POOR: You preach the good news to them & they are saved...

YOU DISCIPLE THE POOR: You disciple them & give them a place to serve Christ...



OUR GIFT TO YOU! The inspirational Classic book that inspired Mark & Cindi to start Target Dayton! It's our special gift to you in appreciation for your donation to feed & save the poor this month!

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