

December 2016 Emanuel Youth Mission Newsletter

Remember when.....

P.O. Box 582, Lovington, Virginia 22949



Katy Abi Benavides 12 years ago at 3 years of age



Manfreddis (tallest) when he was in elementary school

Many happy blessings this Holyday season! Thanksgiving week, we traveled to Taura, El Salvador to witness 2 very special life passages for our youth. We want to share with all of you who partner with us to help these children. Several of our students graduated from 9th grade, the last year of middle school; we were there to encourage their commitment to education. Katy, who now goes by Abi, and her cousin Manfreddis were among the graduates. Instead of their school uniforms, the students really dress up, although even that is uniform also. All the girls wear the same dress, and the boys wear the same shirt and vest. The photos above and below show how much these students have grown since we began the mission in 2005, and they first began to attend school.



Marvin, Abi, and Jonna Abi and Manfreddis

Emanuel Youth Mission does many different projects to improve the standard of living for the impoverished people of rural villages in El Salvador, but what makes it special is that it is also *a relational mission*. We met these young people 12 years ago and continue to be involved in their lives, to love them and encourage them in their faith and toward a better future. It has been such a blessing to see them blossom into the loving, wonderful young people they are.

12 years ago, few Taura children could afford to go to school. Parents had not been to school, and families needed children at home to work. Now, education is valued and more families want children to go to school. We are presently trying to raise the funds to return 25 students to school for the 2017 school year that begins in January. Only half are sponsored. **Please consider a donation of \$300 to sponsor a child's year of school.**

These children want to go to return to school in 2017.



Donations to Emanuel Youth Mission are tax free. We are a 501-c-3 charity. 100% of donations go to the projects to help the people.



Yanci, in red, is an education success story. She graduated from high school and nursed her older brother through leukemia. Freddy died, and Yanci dreamed of being a doctor to prevent tragedies like that among the poor people. She just completed her first year of university toward a medical degree. She is excelling and absolutely loves her studies. She is passionate about medicine and the future opportunity to help people. Calvary Baptist Church in Lovingson sponsors her. **Please consider contributing to our mission for her college fund**

The 2nd recent big event in Taura was Abi's quincinera, the celebration of her 15th birthday. She and her court of boys and girls gathered at her home and formed a procession through Taura to the church for a special service. Her pastor, family members and church family encouraged her as she makes this passage in her life. Then the procession continued to the Taura clinic. The many traditions were interesting. Marvin gave her the last doll he would give her. Dubi gave her a rose and a kiss. Abi's grandparents participated. The quincinera was a gift to the whole community. It was colorful, beautiful, and very entertaining. Everyone was proud of their young people, had a good meal and good visit, and so many remarked how happy it made them to share in such a memorable day.



We hope you are inspired by the progress these children are making! They are healthy, going to school and happy. Many of you have contributed to make this difference! The children and their families greatly appreciate your help. We appreciate your prayers and all your donations that make it possible for Emanuel Youth Mission to be God's hands and feet in rural El Salvador.

Needs:

- Clinic, doctor and medicine: \$600 a month
- Fumigation for mosquitoes, zika prevention: \$150 each time
- Maintenance for the clean water system: \$100 a month
- Maintenance for the community truck: \$100 a month

- Church dinner for the community: \$500
- Sponsor a student for school: \$300 a year
- Sponsor a student for college: \$5,000 a year
- Irrigation system to extend growing season: \$1,500

Thank you for helping God's LOVE and LIGHT to shine brightly in Taura, El Salvador!

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All donations are tax deductible. 100% of donations go to mission projects.