

— Spring-Summer 2025 —

Ahava Ministries

Semiannual Update to Friends of Ahava Ministries, Inc.



Filling Your Garden

Mary Kassian, taken from *Conversation Piece: Improving Your Relationships One Word At A Time*

The most beautiful garden I've ever seen is on Vancouver Island. What makes it remarkable is that the site was once an eyesore. Used as a quarry in the early 1900s, it became an ugly gaping hole. But Jennie Butchart, the owner's wife, envisioned something different. She planted countless varieties of trees, plants, and shrubs in colorful, brilliant combinations, transforming it into a spectacular garden!

If Jennie hadn't filled the quarry with good soil and beautiful plants, the space would have filled up with dust, weeds, and stinky water. And when it comes to our hearts, it isn't enough to clean out the bad. We need to intentionally fill those spaces with good seeds that will grow and fill our hearts with beauty.

Your speech transformation project won't happen overnight. To see results, you'll need to continually work on it. But if you cooperate with God's transformation—by putting off the old and filling your heart and your mouth with good, new things—your garden will be filled with beauty.

**“Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”
Colossians 3:10**

Youth Discipleship

From February to May of this year, local staff Pamela Fernandez and missionary Emma Seguin worked together to offer two English classes to Ahava's youth. While Pamela's class targeted upper-elementary aged students, Emma's class reached middle and high schoolers.

Pamela's class focused on establishing a solid foundation in the English language, covering fundamentals such as vocabulary, numbers, the alphabet, and basic principles. This initial approach seeks to familiarize students with the basics of English and prepares them for a more in-depth study of grammar. In addition, time was dedicated to strengthening interpersonal relationships through devotionals based on the study of the Book of Ecclesiastes and the teachings of King Solomon. This combination of language learning and personal growth provides students with a holistic and nurturing environment.

Emma's class covered topics such as short and long vowel sounds, the simple present tense, and common verbs in English. The students loved showing Emma how to play freeze tag. They also learned about their identity in Christ - how they are loved, chosen, created with purpose, valued, and forgiven. Praise God for these timeless lessons that will bless the students for eternity.



Team Visits

From January to July of this year, Ahava Ministries has welcomed eight teams, averaging ten visitors per team. Besides supporting Ahava's weekly lunch and discipleship program, teams raise additional funds to install concrete stoves in the homes of needy families. These stoves, which are easily transportable and include a chimney, replace the open fires which expose inhabitants to smoke and other toxins. Since the beginning of this year, teams have donated more than 30 stoves and distributed over 1,000 lbs. of rice and beans.



Rediscovering Scripture in Our Weekly Program

Pamela and Emma have been faithfully teaching 120 program participants Tuesday through Thursday at our new ministry center, located a few blocks away from the former property. Since December 2024, they have been leading our families through an in-depth study of the book of Acts. “Studying Acts provides a great opportunity to introduce our families to the global Church and to pray for those who have yet to hear the gospel,” Emma shares. Families have written letters to imprisoned Christian sisters in Iran, studied maps of the world to identify countries with unreached people groups, and prayed for the millions of people around the world without access to Scripture in their heart language.

The Bible study group that Pamela organizes every Thursday offers an invaluable opportunity for mothers to gather in an environment of learning and reflection. Beginning with the Book of Ecclesiastes, participants explored themes of wisdom, reflection on life, and the search for meaning. Now, as they delve into the Book of Ephesians, they are confronted with the profound message of unity and salvation that Paul imparted to the church at Ephesus. Paul emphasizes the importance of unity in the community of believers and how this unity reflects the fullness of God's love and purpose. Furthermore, applying these concepts to their daily lives allows the mothers to find a renewed sense of purpose and spiritual connection. This more focused approach to Paul's teachings helps strengthen both their individual faith and their sense of community, making each meeting an enriching and transformative space.

On the ladies' Bible study days, Emma leads the children in their own activities. They sit in table groups with an assigned leader that meets with Emma at the beginning of the program to hear the day's plan. This special meeting prepares the students to be effective, servant-hearted leaders to their peers. Afterwards they engage in fun activities about the fruits of the Spirit, discovering both their display in Scripture and how they can be demonstrated in daily life.



“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8



Current Needs

Ahava Ministries, Inc. is prayerfully pursuing the purchase of our new ministry property at the end of this calendar year. So far, we have raised approximately one-third of the \$335,000 USD total price. Since moving in November, we have been able to construct a large classroom on the side of the property. By the grace of God, this has been completely paid for.

Ahava is looking for generous one-time donors and monthly sponsors who are willing to fill in the gap for the remaining total of the building purchase. One-time donors, especially when presented as a matching gift, help us make great strides towards putting down roots in Santa Elena Barillas through the purchase of the new property. Monthly sponsors of any amount communicate to our community and stakeholders that we are committed to shining the light of Jesus in their lives for years to come. Recurring gifts also give us the confidence to welcome more families into our program where space allows. Will you ask the Lord if He is inviting you to be a part of His work in Guatemala?

Prayer Requests:

- Blessing on the 50 families Ahava Ministries serves on a weekly basis.
- Calm along the Jalpatagua faultline that runs through our community
- New partnerships with churches in the United States
- Spiritual protection over the hearts, minds, and families of our hardworking staff
- Freedom for our community from strongholds of sexual sin, alcoholism, and gossip

Support our t-shirt fundraiser! Shirts are available for \$20 in Guatemala and the U.S. Contact Angelia Rozier.



You're Invited!

What: Weekly Prayer for Ahava

When: Thursdays at 7pm CT

Where: Online via Zoom

