

# Jeff & Christa Mills in Guatemala

Final Harvest Ministries, Apartado 10, 03901 Antigua, Guatemala, Central América

July 2018

## VOLCANO FUEGO DISASTER

A catastrophic eruption of Guatemala's Volcano Fuego on 3<sup>rd</sup> of June affected more than 1.7 million people in this country. As far away as 70 miles the country was covered in ash which included our house and garden which is only a few miles away from the volcano. The death toll at the time of writing this report stands at 131 pulled out of the ashes and, with somewhere between 2,000 and 3,000 buried under the ash. The Government refuses to admit to so many being dead as they are already being blamed for knowing the volcano was going to erupt and not vacating the people from the villages below it.



The country's disaster management agency has therefore now suspended its search for victims, but some families have not given up searching, wanting to give a proper burial to their relatives. It has been heartbreaking to watch women with just a pickaxe digging until they collapse with tiredness and then coming back day after day to start all over again. One young man was seen using only his hands which was crazy as the ash was still hot! Private firms were charging exorbitant fees to hire out their heavy digging equipment, and sadly, the Government has done little to help, yet many countries from across the world stepped in with teams to search, feed and clothe these families.



As you are aware, we put out an email asking for your help and you have been extremely generous. We would like to explain what we are doing with the funds. We started off by visiting one of the schools close by to us where many of the families are being put up. Here our church distributed bibles for the adults and children. We were also able to pray for many of the people. As funds came in we have also been purchasing food, water, bedding, kitchen equipment, eating utensils, toiletries medicines and many other needs. We have now focused our attention on certain families that relatives or friends are putting up temporarily in towns near us until new accommodation is built for them. Remember, these people have lost everything!



***One rescued child***



***One dead child***



***Mother & Daughter weep over loss of their family***

There are centres where organizations are handing in food etc, but we have found out there is a lot of corruption going on hence it being better to work with people we can return to without any jealousy or corruption setting in. The local voluntary paramedics are good friends of mine and they have not only located these families in need but have helped us to deliver the donations to them. Sadly, they lost two of their men whilst searching for survivors.

This is not going to go away in just a few weeks but is going to take many months until families can be located in new houses which countries such as Israel, Germany, Great Britain and the USA have donated funds for the construction to take place as soon as land is found. The land where the thousands are buried alive will now be declared a communal burial site and will not be allowed to be built on ever again.



***This man died a day later***

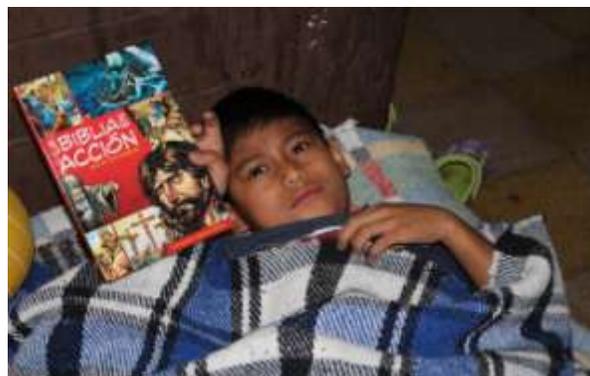


***A young boy cries over the coffins of his parents***

This work has kept us very busy and will continue for months to come. We thank every one of you for your very generous donations in helping to make these survivors lives as normal as possible. Everywhere we have been we have got heartfelt thanks and tears. We have posted some of the many photos that I have taken, but also a YouTube video I have made at: <https://youtu.be/z2wgJrh4wqQ> Please take time to look at it. If some of you would still like to make a donation then please send it to one of the addresses below marked "Volcano Disaster" Once more thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



***Jeff praying for a sick child***



***A child receives a Bible***



***Jeff handing out food to a family***



***Christa preparing "Help Packs"***



*My Paramedic friend Nelson helping me*



*Handing out kitchenware to a family*



*Another family gets blessed*



*Our church leaders prepare to visit families*

God bless you and keep you all !

Jeff & Christa Mills

Globe Mission Missionaries



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