

Sadoc Aguilar Palma
Program Consultant

saguilarpalma
@worldrenew.net

Davinsky de Leon
Constituency Bridger

Ddeleonronquillo
@world-renew.net

Bethany Cok
Volunteer

volunteerblog.worldrenew.net
/bcok16

Claire Gillen
Volunteer

volunteerblog.worldrenew.net
/claireg16

World Renew Canada

3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8
1-800-730-3490
Fax: 905-336-8344

World Renew US

2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49560
1-800-552-7972
Fax: 616-224-8060

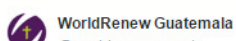
worldrenew.net/guatemala
@worldrenew_guat



Women at the community of Chinatal in Petén, Guatemala, using old tires to grow home gardens and help to preserve the environment.



31 Oct



Lessons for the New Generation

by **Bethany Cok—Volunteer**

It takes 45 minutes of driving over bumpy dirt roads to reach San Juan Acul from the nearest town, Sayaxché, in northern rural Guatemala.

Today a community of nearly 250 families, San Juan Acul was settled in 1964 by just three. Community members remember the early days, when there was no road or electricity and they entered the area by boat.

“We came in need of our own land,” said a woman in the community, now in her sixties, who had settled in San Juan Acul with her family when she was nine years old. “Most of our fathers had worked on farms owned by other people.”

In the fifty-odd years since the community was founded, families from all over Guatemala have come to live there. This is not to say that life in the community has always been easy, or that it is today; some members of the community still don’t have titles to their land or easy access to clean water.

APIDEC, a partner organization of World Renew, has been active in San Juan Acul for the past three years, focusing on preventative health and agriculture programs. Community members were quick to explain both the resources APIDEC had provided and their vision for the future.

“We want to say thanks, especially, for the health clinic,” said one community member. Last year, APIDEC partnered with World Renew, Hebron CRC, and the community to build a new health clinic that would be a better place to provide health care. The partners provided funding for the project and the community members of San Juan Acul did the actual construction work.

APIDEC’s agriculture trainings have helped the community understand the importance of crop diversification, and the community members implement it in their own family gardens, highlighting the importance of community cooperation. Delmi Suchite, a young woman who travels from a neighboring community with her husband to attend APIDEC’s trainings and workshops, explained how APIDEC’s support in agriculture helped her family.

“Anyone is welcome to come and see my family’s garden,” she said. “My house is poor, and I don’t have much, but now we have plenty to eat and to support our family—and we are so thankful to God for that.”



Vicente Bardales Guillen, project beneficiary

When asked about the community’s dreams for the future, an older woman replied that she’d love to see a basketball court built outside the school.

“Being able to play basketball will give our kids and teenagers something fun and productive to do with their time, so they don’t get into trouble,” she said.

That’s the hope of transformational development: that community members will unite to improve not only their own lives but also their community as a whole for future generations. As they pass their faith and values along to their children, they will also pass along lessons learned in sustainable agriculture, preventative health, and justice, to further the kingdom of God in our world.

“One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.” —Psalm 145:4

Prayers for Guatemala

- the short-term mission teams coming in 2017, that the Spirit of the Lord may guide everyone involved in the planning, execution, and evaluation.
- all the beneficiaries of our programs, that God will continue establishing his kingdom in the communities through the work of World Renew.
- the evaluation this December of our partner in Mexico: Diaconia Chiapas.
- the training to be developed by our team leader for the directors of our local partners in Guatemala.
- strategic alliances with North American churches and other Christian organizations.
- the new maternal and child health program in the Polochic Valley.
- the staff of World Renew Guatemala and their families.

“The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast.” —1 Peter 5:10