

OPERATION GOSPEL OUTREACH

Help spread the Word.



Southern Baptist volunteers and missionaries Larry and Sarah Plyler stopped to rest along a curbside. They'd been prayerwalking and handing out Scripture portions in Ciudad Vieja, Guatemala. Soon a shoeshine boy sat down beside Larry, who struck up a conversation. The 14-year-old boy—named Isaias—said he had no parents and lived with his grandmother. He worked to support his family.

"What are you going to do with the money you'll earn shining shoes?" asked Larry.

"I'm going to buy me a new pair of shoes," Isaias said.

Larry looked down. The sole of one shoe was missing; the other sole flopped on the bottom of Isaias' shoe. Seeing his need, the Plylers—missionaries of the International Mission Board—took him to buy him a new pair. "But God showed us the sole of the shoe wasn't the soul He wanted," said Larry. "He wanted Isaias' soul in His Kingdom."

After a volunteer shared her faith with him, Isaias accepted Christ. When the team visited the boy's home—a tin shack with a dirt floor—the Plylers told the family about his decision and need for discipleship. The next week they started a Bible study in Isaias' home. Now more than 130 people study God's Word there twice a week.



Isaias is one of thousands who have met Christ through Operation Gospel Outreach (GO), a gospel saturation

effort in the IMB's Middle America and Caribbean region. Trying to reach millions of homes in that region, volunteers, missionaries and national believers distribute Gospels of John or Luke in print or audio formats.



"Often our volunteers see the fruits of their work before they leave the field. That's a bonus blessing for them," said Larry. "But if they don't, we know seeds have been planted. God's Word will not return void."

Volunteers from Broadus Memorial Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., got that "bonus blessing" when 76 people became Christians during an Operation GO project in Panama. In one home, a team of volunteers led five people to Christ, including a 75-year-old stroke victim on his deathbed.

"Seeing that man accept Christ was more fulfilling than anything I could have experienced anywhere," said volunteer Ann Cleary. Operation GO "changed my life. I'm now more committed than ever to spreading God's Holy Word."

Operation GO leaders are grateful for volunteers like Ann. "God is calling His people out of their comfort zones, and they are answering and serving Him," said Larry. "Praise God for volunteers!"

To learn more about Operation GO, contact:
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