

**ISAIAH 9:6**

**Our Vision**

“Communities transformed by the Heart and Message of Christ”

We accomplish this vision by:

- 1) Helping churches gain and maintain a position of practical and spiritual relevance in the heart of their communities
- 2) Building pastoral community, affirmation, support and leadership development
- 3) Facilitating Strategic Short term missions projects

**Ron and Sherry Lapka**  
Missionaries to Central America.

If you wish to partner with this ministry, please donate by:

Secure on-line at [Acop.ca](http://Acop.ca)  
or  
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# 0611

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# Lapkas in Central America

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## Merry Christmas Feliz Navidad



Sherry, Charis, Kaelyn and Ron

Wow, is all we can say about the wonderful things God has done this year! 2011 has gone by so quickly and as we look ahead to 2012, we want to say thank you Lord and thank you to all of you! Thank you to all of our supporters and those who faithfully pray for us. We are always so grateful and blown away by your love for us and our family. We want to be willing servants doing what God asks of us and you are a large part of our ability to do it. This will be a quiet Christmas for us as we celebrate Jesus' birth as a family here in El Salvador. More than ever we pray for Jesus to be the focus among all the activities. We are excited to celebrate the New Year with a team from Swift Current Sask. Salvadoran style! Have a **Very Merry Christmas** and a blessed New Year!

## Graduation Time! Reaping a Harvest!

This a wonderful time of year! To see students in the School Sponsorship program graduating and going where no one in their family or town has gone before—High School and even University. They study under difficult surroundings and many of them serve in the church and are developing leaders. What an impact you have for the Kingdom of God and El Salvador when you sponsor a student. Please pray for available space for the ever increasing numbers of High School students looking for schools to study in!!! The schools near to them are FULL. Transportation and safety are issues. Please renew or start to sponsor a student. [www.elsalvadorscholarships.org](http://www.elsalvadorscholarships.org)

Scholarship Graduates from the High School in Zaragoza - INZA



Special party for students who placed top of their class



Hacienda School  
**Left:** little one graduating from pre-school to grade one.  
**Above:** It's a tradition for the grade 9 class to dance together as they graduate into High School

# Education Statistics in El Salvador

Not only do rural students in El Salvador often walk long distances to school, they likely do it on an empty stomach (15% of Salvadorans live on less than \$1.25/day and a large portion in poverty). The conditions they study in are mindboggling but more so is the ability for students to do well despite the conditions. The schools around the Corinto church are bursting with optimistic students as more sponsored students than ever before have the opportunity to go to High School and even University. Thanks to you the sponsors, young people have a chance to hear the gospel and together with God make

a better El Salvador!

Here are some numbers you may find interesting.

60% of children attend pre-primary education

93% of children attend primary education

55% of children attend secondary education

23% of students attend tertiary education—5% have a university degree

As a sponsor you are changing the future of families and a nation. Thank you so much for your love and dedication to developing leaders for God's Kingdom.

To sponsor a student or for more information, please go to:

[www.elsalvadorscholarships.org](http://www.elsalvadorscholarships.org)



Highest marks in her grade 9 class! On to High School!



Susana Arroyave ,Greta Sheppard and Heather Dorris with Kaelyn and Charis

## Ministry Visit

We had the pleasure of hosting Greta Sheppard in October 2011. She ministered and taught about the power of blessing and its incredible impact on the future of families, individuals, and communities. She was an amazing blessing to many individuals, families and young people as was her sister Heather Dorris and friend Susana Arroyave. Susana translated and each were used in a special way to bring God's message to El Salvador and Guatemala. We have had individuals tell us of the things God has done for their families since the teaching given by Greta. As a family we know we are changed for the better after having these wonderful ladies touch our home and lives. They are known affectionately as "the Grandmas" by us and our girls.

## Mission Team

A terrific team from Florida and Wisconsin came in November to build the first home in the Transitional Housing Project. They worked extremely hard with the goal of being a blessing to a family in need of a touch from Jesus to transform their lives. We are so grateful to the loving and generous hearts of the team. We know God did a work with each of them and through them to touch others for the Kingdom of God. If you or your church



Wisconsin/Florida group with friends.

Just needs a roof! First house built



has expertise in this area of ministry (transitional housing), please prayerfully consider helping us to develop this ministry here in El Salvador.

### Contact Us:

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## Prayer Matters

Thank you for praying for this ministry. We are thankful to the Lord for your partnership in loving people as Jesus loves them. Pray for God to change hearts for eternity and change families and communities for his glory and testimony.

Please pray for our vehicle needs/maintenance as this is always a challenge