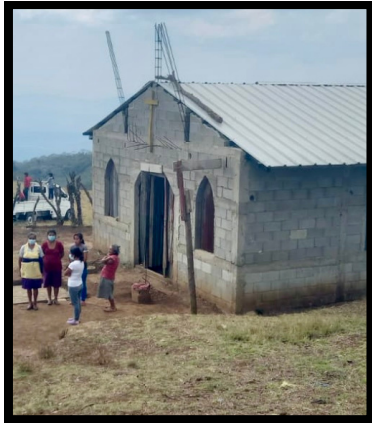


Guatemala 2025 - The Impact of Four Years

Holy Spirit: You Are Making a Difference!



The church 4 years ago



The church now



Two thousand miles south, within a small mountain-top village called La Cumbre, Guatemala sits the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This church and its community live extremely isolated from the world. The village consists of forty properties with three families per property. Of these one hundred and twenty households, one third belong to the church. One priest alone serves Our Lady of Guadalupe and the surrounding seventeen churches, meaning Father celebrates Mass in La Cumbre once every eighteen days. The families of La Cumbre originally depended on two small and inconsistent water sources that were difficult and dangerous to access.

For the past four years, Holy Spirit Parish has served Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and its surrounding community with supplies and labor, prayers, donations, and missions. During this time, the Church and community outwardly changed in drastic form. The Church itself started with cement walls, uneven dirt floors, metal ceilings, no windows, and a small altar. Today Our Lady of Guadalupe has painted walls, a steeple, tile floor, stained glass windows, a crucifix, a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, stations of the cross, with a restroom and sacristy in progress. Holy Spirit also built two wells on the church property, now providing the village with accessible and consistent drinking water.

Though the church's physical progress stands out prominently, the spiritual changes are equally dramatic. Every year, Holy Spirit missionaries lead vacation bible school for the children of the village. Mothers and children alike, who once arrived quietly and unsure of what to make of VBS, now wait expectantly to participate in learning Scripture, singing and dancing to praise and worship songs, and discussing the Lord's plans for their lives. Throughout these moments of community, many villagers share stories of extreme difficulties, loss, illness, and despair; however, they remain sincerely grateful for the spiritual support. Many villagers praise the Lord for this reminder that they feel seen in their efforts and supported in their faith. Many mothers and church members now gather weekly, even if there are no sacraments offered, to read scripture, pray for their intentions, and gather as a community of faith.

Holy Spirit Parish has also supported Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and its community in all their basic needs. At first, the village's primary need was physical support, such as securing enough food to support families and ensuring access to clean water. As relationships formed between missionaries and community members, the support naturally changed. Soon Mrs. Lopez, the only teacher to all elementary students of La Cumbre, relied on Holy Spirit for educational materials. The mothers recently received religious books and materials to study and to discuss, becoming faith leaders in their own household.

Holy Spirit missionaries maintain strong connections with many village members of La Cumbre, teaching them to walk with the Lord. It is a central goal of future missions to empower community members to take on the responsibility of maintaining and growing in their own faith. Holy Spirit parishioners have made it possible for the Lord to enter many new hearts and homes in La Cumbre and for each person to feel support for all of their human needs. Missionaries and villagers alike are grateful for the continued support in all of its forms.



"It's a wonderful experience...You will never forget the community of friends you make."

-Ethan



For more information
or to donate:

