

Hello. My name is Tommy Plyler and I came to Guatemala from Pleasant Grove, Alabama in the United States. At home I work as an accountant for an electric power company. A part of why I have travelled to San Marcos is to work on a Church as a member of a construction team from First Baptist Church in Pleasant Grove. I understand that a portion of the Church was damaged by an earthquake. The construction team will remove the damaged portion of the building and use any of the remaining useful foundation to build a new section to allow new growth and better service to the Church and the surrounding community.

In a way the story of the damaged Church building is a lot like my recent life journey. I too experienced a personal life changing event when early last year my wife of 36 years passed away suddenly. **Mark 13:33** *Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*

I have had to ask for help “what do I do now?” and “where do I go?” everything seemed so different. I was looking for a place where I could belong. **LUKE 15:18** *I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. LUKE 15:20* *So he got up and came to his father.* As the construction team will do this week, I also have had to look at my life’s foundation. **1 Corinthians 3:11** *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* I have had to check my foundation and see if it is strong enough to weather the storms of life. If not, then I had to consider “what steps did I need to take to bolster the foundation before I can try to begin to reconstruct a life going forward?” **Matthew 7:24** *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.*

The greatest gifts that my wife left with us were her love, her faith in Jesus Christ and our firm belief that she is now with Jesus waiting for us to join her one day. **John 14:2** *In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

My prayer now is that I can share those same gifts with the people I meet as the Lord guides me for the remainder of my life’s journey. **PSALM 143:10** *Teach me to do Your Will [so that I may please You], For You are my God; Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.*

Maybe, just maybe, a part of the Lord’s plan for my life is to come to Guatemala, to meet someone like you and to tell you about the love of Jesus, how he died on a cross for our sins, how he was resurrected and how he offers forgiveness and redemption to all those that will accept him as their savior. **John 14:3** *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

The most important thing that I will do on this trip is to ask you to join me now in prayer and consider accepting Jesus’ offer to you of his love, the forgiveness of your sins and your salvation?