



Steve, Rachel, Caspar, Raúl, Adrianna and Jim (L-R), staff on the Resonate Central American team from Guatemala to Costa Rica, highlight some of the HOPE AND HEALING we see along with partners in the region.



Woman violently abused by husband



Migrants desperate because of gang violence sleep on the side of the road in a caravan



Elderly woman abandoned by family receives aid

HEALING AND HOPE

War, corruption, oppression, foreign intervention, greed, and power struggles have plagued this small region that connects north and south since the conquistadors first arrived, and even before that.

Many adults in Central America have lived through civil unrest if not war.

On top of that, Central American countries experience low indices of employment, education, and societal trust. Women and children are under attack; so much so that in Spanish, there is a specific word for the murder of women, "femicide," and often at the hands of their life partners. Teen pregnancies are rampant, with sexual abuse being a leading factor. Large numbers of families disintegrate as

parents migrate to other places, looking for better opportunities. Gangs and organized crime rings seem like a welcoming place for young people who have no future and no family.

Vast numbers of the population where we serve are put in impossibly difficult situations with their families and neighbors as they live in the context of acute pain and trauma.

Sometimes it is hard to have hope when we see that there is "nothing new under the sun," but we continue to cling to the cross and trust our Suffering Savior in the midst of pain, knowing that all things will be made new. By God's grace, we see healing and hope in these broken places, as wounded healers share Good News.



Boy protecting his pregnant sister, who was abused by their father



Migrants being forcibly restrained



Caretaker of wife and granddaughter after his children left

PRAYER POINTS

- Cohort 2022 is finishing in December, and a new round will begin in January 2023. Pray for participants of 22 who are discerning a longer term of service with their host organizations.
- Pray for healing for Caspar Geisterfer in Honduras who has been dealing with health issues. Also pray for Jim Padilla DeBorst who has been having a lot of trouble with his ankle.
- Praise that Casa Adobe has been approved as a friend of A Rocha (creation care) and pray for God to provide someone with time and energy to oversee some big projects that are developing.
- Pray for healing for Jeison Rodriguez, assistant for Cohort, who broke his collarbone.
- Our regional team is developing position descriptions for three new staff members. Please pray for God to provide the right people when applications open.
- Hurricane Julia impacted the entire region, with loss of life, property, livestock and crops. Please pray for relief efforts. We are thankful for God's protection and that it was not worse in the communities where we live. Pray for God's people to respond with love in the midst of another disaster.



A group who participated in Healing Circles with the Nehemiah Center proudly show their certificates. PC: Nehemiah Center

COLLABORATING FOR HEALING

When the Nehemiah Center in Nicaragua began facilitating "Healing Circles" based on material from the Trauma Healing Institute for "healing the wounds of the heart" as named in Spanish, they offered it to key pastors who participated in their programs. Based on the recommendation of one of these pastors, Compassion International in Nicaragua requested that the Nehemiah Center facilitate a Healing Circle with their staff in early 2022, and then train their representatives to facilitate healing circles.

Pastora Auralilliam from Managua received trauma healing training and considers it to have impacted her personally and in ministry.

"[I] see things differently. As a pastor, I consider it to be an additional tool to apply to ministry... I can process things and see that the trauma is less, that the scars of it are experienced less. I see that God has an answer, which allows me to trust God more."

Auralilliam uses different strategies from the material to solve problems: "I encourage [parents] to clean out the things from their past which have hurt them and can hurt their children too...they should cleanse their inner being and take out what has hurt them."

What she has learned has been put into practice as she listens to people's pain and reacts differently than she used to. "I don't try to change the people but rather [help them] find the solution for themselves through the Scriptures, sharing with them the Word and the knowledge [I have] gained."

The Nehemiah Center's goal is to have 10 apprentice facilitators for Healing Circles in Nicaragua this year. They will keep collaborating with Compassion International to help them respond better to the needs of the children and families that they serve through healing circles, as Pastora Auralilliam has begun to do.



Gladys (far left) with a healing group in El Salvador



People take their pain to the cross during a healing circle in Nicaragua; PC: Nehemiah Center

**"I see God working in each person...
encountering comfort, forgiveness and hope. "**

- Gladys

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF THE HEART

"I see God working in each person, when they are able to share their experience that they haven't shared for years or that they weren't able to share without deep sadness and crying, [that] at the end of the workshop they are seen encountering comfort, forgiveness and hope for a new start." - Gladys a trainer with Seeds of New Creation in El Salvador.

In the Central American region in 2018 Resonate and World Renew started to promote a tool called Healing the Wounds of Trauma developed by the Trauma Healing Institute. Each country in the region has implemented this resource in different ways.

Seeds of New Creation continues to promote these healing groups that meet face to face or online for 2 hours a week over 5 weeks. Gladys is one of the primary facilitators of these healing groups on behalf of Seeds in El Salvador.

In the context of violence, abuse, discrimination and poverty, the workshop puts God in the center of the participants' pain, giving them rest from

their burdens. The participants, whether their wounds are open or buried, manage to open up and express what is causing pain in their heart. The workshop helps them take their anguish to the cross of Jesus, and this helps heal their heart.

"I want to give thanks to God for this blessing [of trauma healing], because the healing is for all: for the person who is listening and participating, and for the person who is facilitating the lesson." - Gladys



Two trauma healing participants PC: Nehemiah Center

A LITTLE LESS BROKEN

"I see God asking deep questions about how we truly see ourselves and how we see Him. God invites us to be responsible for our own stories where we stop being victims and we become resilient owners of our history."-- Juliana, a participant in Faithwalking.

Faithwalking is a series of modules about inner healing and emotional maturity, divided into themes for personal reflection and group discussion. Participants share their experiences and try to identify past wounds, searching for healthier perspectives to view their scars.

Juliana was part of a group of young adults who went through the entire Faithwalking curriculum facilitated by Resonate missionaries. She

participated as part of Cohort Central America, which is led by Rachel Beveridge. The young people met virtually from all over the world for nearly two years as they went through the modules.

"Hearing their journeys made me understand that the emotional pain of our childhood and past is not exclusive to one social class, country, race or gender. We have all been wounded or wounded someone, intentionally or unintentionally."

Juliana is very glad to have been part of the Faithwalking journey because "it is necessary to be emotionally healthy... I can't imagine continuing to live with the same pain. I wish the same [healing] for others. Really, it's like taking a weight off your shoulders. We as people are broken. Faithwalking helps you be a little less broken."



Juliana

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Engaging People. Embracing Christ.

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