

# Merry Christmas!



Sewing Teacher Rosa, Mecanic teacher Denis, Welding Teacher Benites, English Teacher Brian all dressed for the best toilet paper snowman competition.

Hello COCAL GRACIAS!

When a door closes, God opens a better one!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving and was able to receive your card from one of our students. The students were really happy to write them. We finished up classes after our thanksgiving and this last week we celebrated with the student body and their families. We usually have our party at *Los Laureles* park in Puerto Cortes.

They give us a really good entrance rate and let us cook our own food, but when we called to let them know we were coming on Saturday, they informed us that an excursion had already booked the place! I couldn't believe it. Who besides Ministerio La Voz goes to a waterpark in December? We talked about switching venues or switching days, but neither sounded good and time was ticking. Our parties are so much work for the staff, especially when we need to prepare and transport everything needed to cook for 150 people! When we were only a week out, I was tempted to cancel the party for the first time ever.

As a last chance, we called bus drivers for rates to the border to see if we could visit Suridasay, another water park by the Guatemalan border that some old students of MLV own. They said they could cook for us and we could swim for free! In the end, we had a better deal going out to see them. They made the most amazing fresh, fried fish lunches and everyone was really happy. They used their kitchen and they cleaned up. We didn't have to do a thing- other than pay. Everyone loved the new location and the swimming pools. Shirley and Sofia did an amazing job decorating for us and we had a great day!







We graduated three young men as professional welders and I really want to take a moment to brag on them. Maykol, Derek, and Victor graduated last Saturday after studying for two and a half years in Ministerio La Voz. They have over 300 hours of welding practice and they each had to create and build a final project alone to graduate. Maykol just landed a job in the Navy shipyard working with three other MLV graduates welding gas tanks. Victor is welding with his dad in his construction company and Derek is freelancing with side jobs while he continues to study. More than their professional success, all three received Jesus in MLV. Victor was baptized last July at the party and found a local church to join. Maykol also was baptized in MLV and had this to say at his graduation:

*...In the next level I felt totally defeated. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry and I got to the point where I was thinking of leaving my studies. I was so close to losing the battle, but something inside me reminded me of all the struggles to get to this point and my dream to be a welder. As I was contemplating throwing everything away, Brian came and asked me if I would like to be baptized. I didn't know how to respond, but after talking with him, I thought I should give everything over to God. I think that was the best decision of my life.*

*As I came out of the water, I felt an immediate change in me. I felt God taking control. It was beautiful when I told my mom and saw how happy she was for me. Afterwards, everything changed drastically in my house, my work, and my studies for the better. I apologized to my mom with all my heart, and I got a new and better job in the Navy base, and I graduated the second best in my welding class....*



Derek, Victor , Maykol

It is so beautiful to hear a student share in his own words what God has done for them through MLV. This is the reason Cocal Gracias exists, to give people an experience with God that will change their lives. Thank you to all of you who donate and make all that we do possible.

Cocal Gracias funds and runs Ministerio la Voz trade school.



Cocal supplies everything needed for Timothy Center, our children's center in Agua Caliente.

We sponsor 12 students in a Christian school in San Pedro Sula.

We help with food and medical expenses in the community.

We help with house improvements in the community too.

Cocal also supports Pastor Juan and the four churches he has planted in the mountains around Puerto Cortes.

This year, through your generous giving, we were able to share the gospel with hundreds of people. We were able to make and train disciples, help the needy and purchase half the vision property in Palermo.

As this year comes to a close, would you consider making one additional gift to Cocal Gracias for the coming year? We have much to do in 2024, our 15<sup>th</sup> year in ministry. 2024 is for the Vision Property.

God bless,

Brian



### COCAL GRACIAS VISION PROPERTY, PALERMO

Tis the season to give thanks and to show your love.  
A generous donation will do you and Cocal good.

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Or send a check to: Cocal Gracias, P.O. Box 35552, Tucson, Az 85740



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