



Azaria Spencer

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Contact details:
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Location: Guatemala



What I do: Coming alongside and discipling at-risk children and young adults and empowering them to pursue their dreams.

Dear lovely family and friends,

How nice to be sharing with you all again. *Let's begin by thanking God for the way he surprises us with new beginnings.*

Recently I've found myself in new beginnings that I was not expecting. God has opened the door to explore some new opportunities in ministry here in Guatemala. In these last few weeks I have been exploring new options and finding out about a couple of ministries and projects. My passion for discipleship and particularly working with vulnerable young people remains the same and is my focus as I explore.

One ministry, associated with my local church, has the vision/mission to protect vulnerable children and young people through a variety of ministries and projects. I have been able to serve on team at some of their training events, as one of their focuses is to educate and equip. They do this through the local church, to bring awareness about vulnerable children and youth and show how people can help, and in turn, support people as they start to help. This is through anything from mentoring training to supporting families who wish to foster/adopt.

Another project I have been finding out about is located in an underprivileged, "red" area (high risk and dangerous), where a team of volunteers work with children and young people in education and life-skills support. On my first visit I was moved by how humble the project is and the generous hearts of the volunteers. They have expressed a need for someone to help specifically with discipleship. So, as I continue to discern where God is leading me, I will start by helping to run the end of the year holiday school through preparing and leading devotionals.

I am also hoping to find out more about a women's refuge home, supported by my church, where abused/at-risk women can live with their children and receive various kinds of support. A need they have expressed is discipleship and people to simply come alongside these women and their children as they process and heal. I hope to explore other options too as I seek God's guidance and discernment.

I was not expecting to explore new areas to serve in at this stage; it is only God who brings us to these times of transition and leads us through. I am very thankful for the time I served with SKD Guatemala and all that I learned, and the numerous ways God helped me grow through my experiences there. I have been deeply impacted and forever changed, most of all by the wonderful people I met – team members, children



A devotional activity, looking at names for God.

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and young people – and friendships that will last a lifetime. It is amazing to see how God prepares us and then leads us into new things.

Please pray for me as I explore these new ministry opportunities, for peace and God's guidance. Please also remember all these ministries and the vulnerable people they support in your prayers.

Sometimes life, well God, can surprise you in truly unexpected ways. In December 2020 I headed from Guatemala to England to

spend six months with family and visiting link churches and supporters. Well, due to the lockdown situation, I spent most that time living with my parents and younger brother in a beautiful pocket of England, Devon, and my church visits were virtual. It was a blessed yet strange season, the time with my family refreshing and life-giving, and I was greatly encouraged by supporters, friends and my wonderful link churches. I came back to Guatemala, May 2021, excited for what God had for me next and he did not disappoint.

I am writing to you now, almost a year and a half later, getting ready to go back to the UK to be with my family, friends and visit my link churches again, and one of the most exciting things about my trip this time is that I will not be going alone. Last year I met a wonderful man called David. Neither one of us were expecting a relationship at the time, but God had other plans and we are both thrilled that God's plan was for us to be together. I laugh now, but just before I started dating David, I remember telling one of my closest friends, quite adamantly too, that I was determined to head into my 30s single and happy about it. God had other ideas and, although I am sure I would have entered my 30s happy if I was single, I was more than happy to turn 30 with David in my life. Getting to know David and grow in friendship and relationship with him has been an absolute joy. David is Guatemalan and we met while serving at the same project: he was volunteering and teaching a group of the children/youth I worked with to sing. Our cultural differences add an extra layer of fun and thankfully not too much challenge to our relationship. David also serves as a worship leader at the church we attend together, with his family also. I don't want to turn this link letter into a full-blown love story, but I wanted to share this news with you all. The last thing I expected when I arrived back in Guatemala May 2021 was to be heading back to England this December with my boyfriend. I can't wait for David to meet my family in person and learn more about me and my culture. We are even more excited to see where God leads us as a couple.

Please pray for David and me as we prepare for our trip to England and all that it holds, and for me as I finish planning my link church visits.

Thank you for your continued support, love and prayers.

Love and blessings,

Azaria x



Photos from top to bottom: Another devotional activity, using interactive prayer stations; David and I; Prayer group after training in church; David and I with some of the youth.



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