

2024

# Annual Report



PARADISE BOUND  
MINISTRIES

# FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Paradise Bound Ministry experienced a great year of ministry work in Guatemala, work that was and is being done all for His glory. Our entire ministry staff has a shared commitment to serve others just as Jesus modeled when He walked on this earth. Through meeting the physical needs experienced by Guatemalans, doors are opened to share how our Father in heaven longs to have a personal relationship with each one of us. We here at PBM are committed to leaning into the calling He has for us as a ministry, and He has for each of us as individuals, all uniquely gifted to serve Him in our roles within the ministry.

From my seat in the ministry, what I would argue is the best seat in the house, I have the privilege of seeing details from each one of the ministry programs we have here at PBM. I would like to give those reading this, a glimpse of how the Lord has been at work through His ministry here at PBM.

➤ This past July a mission team from West Michigan joined us for a week serving alongside our Guatemalan staff. The project was building a park for the village that is closest to our mission base, Labor de Falla. A barren, muddy piece of ground was transformed into a park equipped with natural bench seating, playground equipment, plants, flowers, fresh paint on surrounding walls and an outdoor covered cooking area all to be used for village wide gatherings.

The physical transformation of the land during that week was remarkable. Yet, the greater work was encountered through the team and staff interacting and ministering with the students and staff of the public school directly adjacent to the park. What an honor it was to see all selflessly serve and to see the name of Jesus proclaimed through actions but also sharing of the Gospel with staff and students through testimony, games and times of praise and worship.



➤ In November, I had the privilege to spend an hour with our Action Bible Field Director, Nelson Morales. As background, this past November I started as the Executive Director of PBM. For the past 12 years I have participated with PBM as a mission team member, team leader for multiple mission teams and a volunteer on various committees within the ministry. Now, as Executive Director, I have the unique privilege of getting to know our team members in a much deeper way.

While Nelson's pickup truck was being serviced by our mechanics, I was able to ask Nelson this simple question; "What motivates you to share the Gospel?" For the next hour I was able to hear the passion that drives Nelson's work, through which he and his team of volunteers equip teachers to become great teachers. When Nelson was in grade school, a missionary poured into him in a classroom visit, a step in the processes God used to shape who Nelson is now. Today, Nelson is pouring into teachers all over the county, giving them tools to equip and train students. How? By using an illustrated version of the Bible, the Action Bible, accompanied by specific lessons Nelson and his staff have developed to unlock the power of God's holy Word. Hearing Nelson's story was a privilege I will not soon forget.

If I were to summarize in one word what 2024 was for PBM it would be, BLESSED. We are blessed to have dedicated staff and volunteers in Guatemala, motivated to serve and help their fellow Guatemalan's in so many ways. We are blessed,

by the staff and volunteers here in the U.S. dedicated to supporting all aspects of our ministry work in Guatemala. We are blessed by the hundreds of short-term U.S. missionaries who volunteered for one of our short-term mission teams that served in Guatemala this year. Blessed, that through some hardship and tough decisions, God continues to sharpen and shape who we are and who we are becoming as a ministry.

Our theme verses for the mission teams hosted in 2024 was Hebrews 12: 1-2. One of the takeaways in studying this passage is this, we are all called to "...throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." We challenged the team members to reflect on what those words meant for them in their own lives. As a ministry, we are focused on what it is God is calling each of us to as individuals and collectively as a ministry. My prayer for our team, as we enter 2025 is to continue to shed off the distractions and lean into the race God has called us all into.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kurt DeKock', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kurt DeKock

Executive Director  
Paradise Bound Ministries



# OUR MISSION

"The mission of Paradise Bound is to continue the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. We accomplish this through His primary example of ministering to physical needs first, building relationships that earn the trust and respect of those we serve, and, ultimately, the opportunity to present the Gospel"

## BIBLES DISTRIBUTED

2800

Spanish Bibles

15

Audio Bibles

37,010

Action Bibles

## FOOD DISTRIBUTED

2568

Pounds of Beans, Rice & Sugar

5136

Pounds of Pasta

1284

Bottles of Oil & Pounds of Salt

## OPEN DOORS Orphanage

18

Children living at Open Doors

8

Children were reunited with their families

6

Children were adopted

## MEDICAL CLINICS

2,980

People Treated

## BIBLE INSTITUTE

44

Students Enrolled



## MISSION TEAMS

17  
Teams

1 church completed and dedicated in Cambalcol

373  
Team Members

1 playground & recreational area build in Labor de Falla

49 houses built (La Bendecion, San Rafael, Labor de Falla, Cambalcol)

2 home renovations with new roofs

Medical clinics, monthly prayer events, and a Children's Day event were all hosted at the PBM Mission Base



## Building Relationships & Sharing The Gospel

Paradise Bound has a heart for loving people, and we want to be a reflection of Jesus in the way we provide care and meet the needs of those God has called us to serve. Earlier this year, an impoverished family in Chimaltenango came to PBM with a medical need. That conversation compelled our staff to visit and assess the family's living conditions.

PBM's staff found more than 20 adults and children living in unsufferable conditions. The metal roof and beams were decaying and riddled with holes. A leaky smokestack left the interior walls soot-covered and crumbling. The interior was very dark, damp, and what most would consider unsuitable for raising a family. Walking through this dark home, you begin to understand the hopelessness that weighs heavily on this family, who lack the resources to improve their situation.

Through continued visits with the family, PBM learned from Carmelina, the family matriarch, that they had been experiencing many hardships, and had no means to make repairs on the family home. Carmelina, now responsible for the full-time care of her aging mother and unable to work, was encouraged by her sister, that God would provide for the family.

Team Heritage traveled to Guatemala in early June 2024, not knowing what they would be doing, but eager to serve. The team physically transformed the home, replacing their old rusted roof panels, reconfiguring their living spaces, and applying fresh stucco and paint to the walls. But the hard work came on Dedication Day when Team Heritage gathered under that shiny new roof to pray for the family and the condition of their hearts. Overwhelmed with emotion, Carmela, her husband Felipe, and their children surrendered their hearts to their Savior. The love of Jesus brought hope and light back into this home, and we are humbled and grateful that God has called us into this work with Him.



Scan to View  
Carmelina's Story



### LUIS' STORY

Luis lives in the home in Chimaltenango that Team Heritage remodeled for his family. He is a street preacher and is the only Christian living in his house. We were blessed to see Luis in action when we arrived at his home ready to work. Dressed in his very best, he carefully polished the device he uses to boldly preach the Gospel to his neighbors. With this wooden box on his back and a Bible in hand, he bid us farewell and walked the streets of Chimaltenango for two hours, loudly declaring that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Luis is an encouragement to those who witness his dedication to the Lord. His example inspires us to be bold in our faith and love our neighbors well.

"I've learned a lot more about what it means to be a **servant**. Usually, when I'm serving, I'm kind of just doing it for ways that are comfortable for me, what I am choosing. But this trip there's been lots of times when I've been exhausted and tired of doing what I was doing, but He's showing me that especially in those moments, where I don't want to be there, that's when I'm actually serving, that's **true worship**.

When we are at the point when we don't really want to do it ourselves, that's a picture of how Jesus served us when He ultimately died on the cross. He gave up **everything** for us that we can at least give a little bit of that to others."



-Audrey, Team Heritage 2024

## JANUARY 2025

Team Green Lake Calvary Church was blessed to be able to build a home for Carmelina's daughter and son-in-law, Silvia and Carlos, this past January. Carlos suffered an accident while working, which resulted in the amputation of his leg. He has been unable to work and provide for his family, so Silvia has taken on the financial responsibility. Carlos and his three children enjoyed build days with the team, fully participating every step of the way. Silvia was able to join the group for dedication day where the team shared gifts, their testimonies, and prayed with the family.

This was a beautiful way in which PBM was able to support these Jesus Followers, by encouraging them, building up their faith, and meeting their physical needs.



# TOTAL DONATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024:

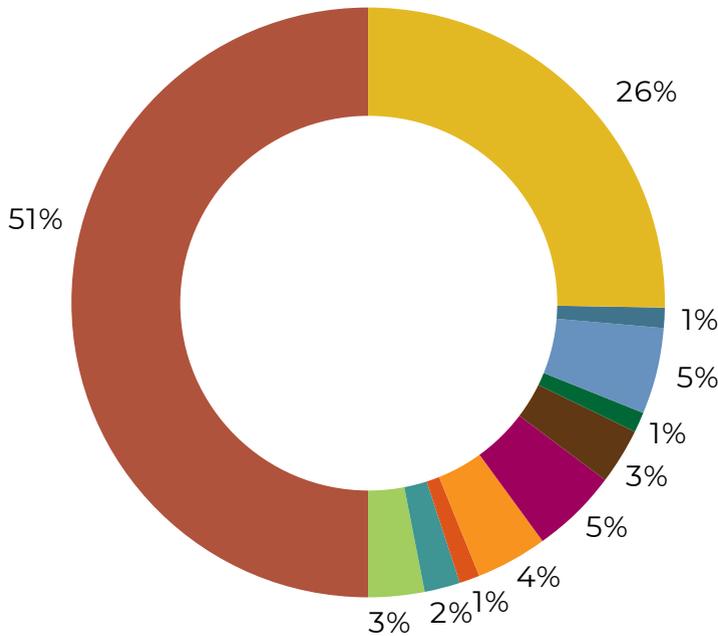
## \$2,534,705.45

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors, whose financial gifts are instrumental in the mission work of Paradise Bound. This faithful combination of business, churches, individuals, and the Paradise Bound Thrift Shoppe have enabled us to continue serving in Guatemala, and impacting communities with the Gospel of Jesus.

Paradise Bound Thrift Shoppe	\$222,000.00
Business Support	\$609,634.42
Church Partners	\$583,820.27
Individual Donors	\$1,119,250.76

As we reflect on 2024, we are overwhelmed by the generosity and excited about the expanding opportunities to share the Gospel that God has laid in front of us. Thank you for believing in our work, and for being a part of this exciting journey.

## PROGRAM SPENDING SUMMARY



## FUNDRAISING, MANAGEMENT, & GENERAL



- STAFF SALARIES 26%
- PAYROLL TAXES 1%
- BUILDING & GROUNDS 5%
- UTILITIES 1%
- TRAVEL 3%
- AUTOMOBILE 5%
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 4%
- ADMINISTRATIVE 1%
- MARKETING 2%
- DEPRECIATION 3%
- DIRECT PROGRAM SERVICES 51%

\* Total investment \$2,000,000

\*Total Investment \$285,000

# FINANCES

2022

2023

2024

REVENUE	\$2,960,460.00	\$2,454,874.00	\$2,734,562.00
EXPENSES	\$2,840,818.00	\$2,107,076.00	\$2,273,889.00
EXCESS	\$119,642.00	\$347,798.00	\$460,673.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,807,094.00	\$3,115,733.00	\$3,542,665.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$84,231.00	\$45,072.00	\$32,438.77
NET ASSETS	\$2,722,863.00	\$3,070,661.00	\$3,510,226.23

\*2024 financial data is from the end-of-year financial statement prior to audit.

## DEAR FRIENDS

In 2024 we have been able to see the Glory of God all throughout Paradise Bound Ministries.

God gave us a vision for 2024, that led us to serve our neighbors in many new ways. We were able to build houses, provide updates to a school, and install a community playground and outdoor meeting space. This community development initiative was a blessing to the villages and opened many doors, allowing us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What we did not anticipate, was the returned blessing that we would receive from these same villages.

The desire to support our neighboring villages, has propelled us into hosting events at our mission base. We hosted monthly community meals followed by church services and prayer vigils, medical clinics, and even an 8k run with Children's Day celebration. The outpouring of support from the villages during our work, and through prayer has been a beautiful partnership which we look forward to continuing in the future.

Our focus was not on growth; however, the scope of the ministry has been even greater this past year than we have ever seen. The effects of Paradise Bound pursuing new ministry opportunities and community development outreaches has rebuilt and strengthened the trust of the people we serve. Our ability to identify and meet even simple needs has drawn more people in to seek refuge and hear the Word of God.

I believe that there is so much more ministry in store, and as our staff and families remain united in this work and in Jesus Christ, God will continue to lead us in many new ways to share His love. A church service or simply serving a hot meal makes room for Jesus Christ to be proclaimed and the hearts of His children to be transformed.

God bless,  
Pablo

Camilo Lopez Perez  
Administrator, Paradise Bound Ministries-Guatemala



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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paradise Bound Ministries is governed by an independent board of directors committed to the mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus.

**Brian Giere**  
President

**Shane Sterk**  
Vice President

**Melissa Kooyers**  
Treasurer

**Kim Theeuwes**  
Secretary

**Eric Lillibridge**  
**Bob Boom**  
**Crystal Nyland**

**Matt Nederveld**  
**Troy Billin**

# PBM LEADERSHIP

**Kurt DeKock**  
Executive Director

**Don Bibb**  
Guatemala Operations Director

**Jeff Nienhuis**  
Strategic Advancement Director

**Maureen Hughes**  
Programming Director

**Tessa Langeland**  
Spiritual Formation Director

**Camilo Lopez Perez "Pablo"**  
Administrator, Guatemala

Paradise Bound Ministries relies heavily on donor support, please consider a financial gift in 2025.

## Ways to give:

Venmo: @ParadiseBoundMinistries

By mail: PO Box 80 Zeeland, MI 49464

Online:



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 (616) 499-4905

 [paradisebound.org](http://paradisebound.org)



Paradise Bound Ministries is an ECFA accredited 501(c)3 organization.