







FUEGO VOLCANO, JUNE 03

## about the Project

Fuego Volcano, the most active out of the 324 volcanoes in Guatemala, erupted on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018.

This eruption generated a column of ash and pyroclastic flows up to 6.25 miles. The eruption affected over 1.7 million people in Sacatepéquez, Escuintla, and Chimaltenango departments.

By June 11, 110 people had been found dead, 12,784 have been evacuated and 5,074 are presently living in government shelters. Hundreds are missing and presumed dead.

Many ladies have been affected physically and emotionally and they have become the focus of our project.

Throughout Guatemalan history women have been segregated, ignored and abused. Often in the mist of crisis, these women are left to themselves. They have to be strong and heal quickly for the well being of their families.

Eufemia Garcia lost 53 family members, and like Eufemia, many women have had human as well as material losses creating a world of uncertainty of their life and future.



EUFEMIA GARCÍA





# Crisis Management Approach in Guatemala

Project Oak will select and train five Christian women from the local church in the crisis management approach. These women will visit the disaster área twice a week in order to minister to the women and their families who have been displaced. On their initial visit, the women from Project Oak, will bring all the supplies to cook a meal for a 7 member family.

Project Oak's goal is to locate and minister to 10 – 20 women who have suffered deeply from the eruption. We will invest the next two years in helping them process and heal from this terrible loss.

Our hope is these women will once again be productive family members and active community leaders.

In Luke 22:15 Jesus said to the disciples, *I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*

We learn that Jesus' desire to spend time with them eating and enjoying the fellowship that a meal brings, was intense.

We know that sharing a meal will give the facilitators open doors to listen, console, and weep with them. Later, as confidence develops, the facilitators will be able to coach them as they resolve their crisis and help them become productive members of their families and community.

Professional Christian Psychologists, Social Workers, and pastors will train a group of 5 ladies to develop a friendship with ladies from the devastation area in order to have access to their hurts and losses.

As these trained ladies gain confidence with the hurting ladies they will be able to help them asses their loss and work through it to overcome their hurts and be healed, be happy, and productive ladies to help their families and communities.



ROSA MARÍA LÓPEZ MIJANGOS



VIEW FROM  
CASERÍO SAN MIGUEL LOS LOTES





FUEGO VOLCANO VIEW

## the Situation

The June 3<sup>rd</sup> eruption, began at 1:00 pm on Sunday, sending a column of smoke for more than 6 miles into the sky. Ash rained down on the nearby towns and cities of Antigua, Chimaltenango and as far as Guatemala City. This debris temporarily closed the airport in Guatemala City. The massive eruption set up a pyroclastic surge (a mixture of ash, sand and gas) which traveled at speeds of over 70 miles per hour and reached temperatures in excess of 700 degrees Celsius. This caught the Guatemalan villagers completely of guard.

**Some of the primary needs that have been identified are food, shelter and psychological assistance.**



VEHICLES WERE BURIED AFTER THE ERUPTION OF THE VOLCANO



## Personnel

- Director.
- 3 to 5 Christian ladies to be the facilitators.
- One Psychologist, Social worker, pastor as needed.
- Trainers on small enterprises (to be determined after learning what kind of soil they live in as well as what kind of business is lucrative in the area).

## Training emphasis.

- How to begin a small enterprise.
- How to cultivate a garden.
- How to raise chickens.
- How to raise pigs.
- How to make traditional souvenirs.

## duration of the project

After two years, the project will be reevaluated to determine the necessity of the Project for an additional two years.

For more detail on estimated total cost of the Project please contact Pier Benites at [\*\*pierbenites@yahoo.com\*\*](mailto:pierbenites@yahoo.com)

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