



Jubilee Centers International  
P.O. Box 7758  
Grand Rapids, MI 49510



## A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTORS DEAR FRIENDS OF JUBILEE,

FALL 2019

### Experiencing the Lord's Abundant Joy

Jubilee's theme verse for our 2019 school year is Nehemiah 8:10: "Do not grieve for the joy of the Lord is my strength." When The Lord placed this theme on our hearts, way back at the end of 2018, we could never have imagined the meaning it would take on this school year.

In our worship time at school, students have been discovering more about this theme verse. Specifically, we have explored the difference between "joy" and "happiness." While happiness is a fleeting emotion dependent on outside circumstances, joy is a God-given heart orientation that remains steadfast even in difficulty.

Just over a month ago, we lost a dear fifth grade student, Alex David Flores Galo, to complications from suspicions of Dengue. Alex exuded the joy of the Lord. He sang in the church's praise team and was the lead singer and director in the student band. He was always a person who lived joyfully, resting in Christ. We wonder, what does it mean that God knew this tragic loss would occur, and that he drew us to a theme verse about his abundant, lasting joy?

The Holy Spirit worked powerfully through Alex to spread the joy of the Lord to the Jubilee community. As he led worship time at school, he always reminded the children of the theme. "Look at our theme verse on the wall behind me," he would say. "Let's say it together!" Neither he nor we knew it then, but God was working through Alex himself to help us make sense of his passing. Through his life and words, Alex taught us that the Lord is the provider of lasting joy, that God is our strength.

In the weeks following his death, we have witnessed firsthand that Christ's joy persists even in tragic circumstances. We take comfort in the promises of Christ, believing that He is our eternal joy, and that Alex is experiencing the full presence of joy now. Alex's death, and all tragic circumstances, are temporary losses that will one day be undone. Because of the reconciliation that Christ has worked in his death and resurrection, we have this certain hope.

In this newsletter we share stories of joy from Jubilee's staff and students. As we draw on him daily for strength, we see the spirit of Christ's joy and hope abounding at Jubilee.

In Christ's Love,

*Emily and David Romero*



## Joy!

### Jubilee's 10th Anniversary Celebration

You are cordially invited to a very special & fun evening

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**

The Pinnacle Center

3330 Highland Drive Hudsonville, MI 49426

Hearty Hors d'oeuvres & Dessert: 7:00 - 7:30pm

Program: 7:30 - 8:30pm

*Business Casual Dress*

To RSVP, email [rsvp@jubileehn.org](mailto:rsvp@jubileehn.org), call 616.422.6335  
or mail via USPS the RSVP card.



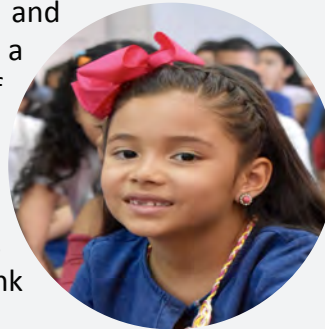


# TESTIMONIES OF JOY!

Written by  
Kathy DeJong

This July, my husband and I were blessed to spend a few weeks at Jubilee Centers International. Some significant moments included three specific conversations with Jubilee students and staff.

I caught up with Diana Reyes, who is eight-and-a-half years old, on a Monday morning in her second grade class with teacher Karol Soto. As we walked down the hallway, Diana smiled and started sharing about her life. Diana recalled a great desire to go to school since the age of two. Math is her favorite subject, and she credits her mother for helping her to understand that multiplication is a fast way to add. “I love the school science fairs!” she added. Her brown eyes sparkled behind bright pink glasses as she shared about her favorite animals: bunnies, cats, and dogs. In spite of her allergies to animals, she



plans to be a veterinarian or possibly a doctor. Diana’s mother cares a lot about what she is learning in school. “My mother asks me what character trait I’m working on. I told mom that I’m working on perseverance.” She also said, “I ask the Lord to give light to my path so that I can follow Jesus.” Diana surprised me with her ability to vividly describe life stories with great detail. As we parted, she said, “I want people to remember me as friendly.” I certainly will!



Later, I caught up with Joshua Garcia, who is 10 years old and in fifth grade with teacher Laura Osorio. This is his first year attending Jubilee. He too spoke with great confidence. As we sat in the school library, he shared his love for informational texts and history. “I also love to study the Bible and draw the stories as I imagine them,” he added. “I am also learning to play the bass guitar.” I asked how his first year at Jubilee was going. He quickly responded, “I am very happy at Jubilee, because I am a Christian and I love going to a Christian school.” Then he smiled as he shared this testimony: “I’ve known the Lord all of my life. From the time I was in my mother’s womb, she took me to church. I remember that Jesus was real to me when I was five years old. I went to an event at church and felt that the Lord was talking to me. At night, I prayed to Him and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I give my testimony in a small group in my home as well as at school.” I was so moved by Joshua’s testimony and faith.

Belinda Andino has been a secretary at Jubilee School since 2014. Hermana Belinda says, “I love to serve and attend to the parents. Since I was a young child, I loved to watch the supermarket cashiers and bank clerks. I wanted to be like them and attend to the needs of other people.” This explains why she loves her role at Jubilee. Hermana Belinda then shared a testimony about her childhood family. “When I was eight years old, my mother was a drug addict, and she was going to take her life. But someone gave her a book about how God had changed the lives of two addicts. As she read the stories, she cried out! ‘If it is true that this God can do these kinds of miracles, why doesn’t He do it for me?’ At that moment, she was overcome with the presence of the Lord. Mom cried and prayed. That day, I knew that I could have lost my mom. But God showed that He cares for us and answers our prayers.”

Hermana Belinda says, “The vision of Jubilee is that we are all worshippers of God and not just Christians by name. My husband and I are building a house closer to school because I want my kids to attend Jubilee soon.” Some other ways that she serves others is by sharing her craft of handmade gifts. She says, “My desire is that my kids always walk with God and that their hearts stay soft toward Him and they grow to be great servants of the Lord.” As we parted with a hug and kiss, I was touched by her contagious smile and our shared JOY in the Lord.



“What gives me the most joy in Jubilee is that God is here and He supports us in what we do. I feel privileged to be part of this big family!”

-Laura Osorio, Fifth Grade Teacher

“It fills me with joy to see the progress of a lot of the students, spiritually and academically.”

-Paola Soto, Music Teacher



“What gives me the most joy are my students. I ask God to take care of them and that they be a generation that impacts lives.”

-Kelín Casco, Fourth Grade Teacher

“What gives me the most joy in Jubilee is to see God’s vision being lived out.”

-Ramon Zapata, Administration



“It makes me happy to see God and to feel his love through the hugs of the students.”

-Gabby Arevalo, Bible & Computer Teacher

“What gives me the greatest joy in being at Jubilee is how working here has grown my relationship with Jesus and all the blessings that He adds to me through the opportunities to serve Him in the school and church. I also find joy in the support that my pastors give me.”

-Janeth Garcia, English Teacher



“What gives me the most joy in Jubilee is how we can freely praise God. It has been a blessing to me and my family. Also, the motivation in the staff is very evident. The love of Christ is seen in this place.”

-Yeni Osorio, Principal



“What I like most about Jubilee is that we sing and dance for God. At times, I sing and sing because my dream is to be a singer for the Lord.”

-Kendy Baca, Fourth Grade

“What makes me the happiest in Jubilee is that all the students, no matter what grade level are very united.”

-Yosneidi Flores, Sixth Grade



“What makes me happy at Jubilee is to be in classes and be with my teachers and friends. I am also happy that my teachers and friends are okay.”

-Naim Duarte, Fourth Grade

“It gives me the most joy that Jubilee is a school of God.”

-Paola Canales, Fourth Grade



“Jubilee gives me joy because it is a Christian school and it teaches me good things.”

-Jorge Salgado, Second Grade

“What I like most about Jubilee is that it is a place where I am led in the path of Jesus. I also like that I am able to be part of the band, where we are able to praise God.”

-Allison Zapata, Sixth Grade



“What I like most about Jubilee is our Children’s Worship time. I feel that when we are praying and singing, Jesus is there. I feel that God tells me that I am his daughter, he is my Father, and he is hugging me.”

-Ashley Salinas, Sixth Grade