



2021 CEO'S YEAR END REPORT

2021 has been a year of some great progress and surprises, though we still find ourselves with limitations and ramifications from the coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic. This year has also had its share of challenges and difficulties as well. Looking back over this past year, reflecting on how God has been faithfully moving and carrying us forward, I am filled with contentment and gratefulness. It is with great praise to God that I, Jesse Rivers, serving as the Chief Executive Officer for Abogar International Ministries, submit this 2021 CEO's Year End Report.

To start 2021, in our BoDy Retreat in January, we had a clear transition in leadership for our board of directors, as Julie Heisey was welcomed into the role of President and I stepped out. The transition has been relatively smooth. Praise God! During the retreat we determined that this year's theme would be 'Deeply Rooted!' It has been great to see some of our roots, as I have been reconnecting with volunteers, ministries, and donors with whom we have developed great relationships over these past almost 10 years of ministry. I do feel quite confident that we have become deeply rooted, by keeping Jesus Christ at the center, and working to develop good relationships in Guatemala and in the US as well! With God as our foundation for what we do, I am excited to see where and how He leads us in 2022.

We have still been very limited by pandemic restrictions in Guatemala this year, and could not have our regular in-person activities and events with children in our Vidas Nuevas program, nor with our partnership with Special Kids School. Therefore, we considered other ways to be advancing the ministry. In February I was able to evaluate a property that had been offered to us, and it became determined that the members of Abogar's board of directors would commit to collectively donating the necessary funds, to purchase the small plot (10 meters x 10 meters) of land in Villa Nueva, Guatemala. On March 3rd, 2021 I signed the legal documents for the purchase, and Abogar now has its first ever property! Praise God!

At the time of purchasing the property, God also provided us contact with a great Christian architect, and he put together a wonderful 3D presentation of the structure that they would be willing to build on the property. I praise God for the vision He has given me for using such a small space in such a grand way, all for His glory! The four-story building will consist of the first floor hosting the main offices for Asociacion Abogar Guatemala, a ministry level on the second floor, an events and team-hosting level on the third floor, and an apartment/living area for AboGua's National Director and family on the fourth floor. The roof will also be flat, and accessible for agricultural (rooftop garden) and ministry opportunities! I am very excited, in anticipation for when we can break ground and begin the building project!



Abogar has been focused on developing our Capital Campaign, to raise the \$300,000 that we need to build on the property in Villa Nueva, Guatemala. The Lord has provided a great consultant who has been advising us in this process, and we are currently in the preparation and silent phase of the Capital Campaign. When we have roughly 75% of the funds raised, we will then go public with the campaign. Meanwhile, I have sensed from the Lord that I should be working to put together a Dream Team of donors who want to invest in the construction on our property. Dream Team members are those who donate a major gift of at least \$10,000 to our Capital Campaign. Right after I sensed the Lord leading me to start raising up the team, I had a meeting with a specific donor, to share about our Dream Team and invite him and his wife to join the team. All praise to God, he arrived to our meeting with a filled-out check already... \$10,000 for the Capital Campaign! Such a great testimony of God confirming His calling! I have been able to successfully add four couples to our Dream Team so far, and at year's end we have successfully raised over \$70,000 toward our Capital Campaign! Let us pray for God to continue providing the right people to be added to our Dream Team!

Speaking to finances, this year has been a successful one by my estimation as well. I want to personally speak to a great faith builder and testimony for our ministry! We had already arrived to the middle of the month of December when I suggested that we do a year-end Christmas Tree Challenge to raise \$25,000 by the year's end, to help with some of the deficit and to bring us to a stable and manageable launching balance for 2022! On December 30th, 2021 we had exceeded our goal for the \$25,000 and had almost reached \$30,000 for the general account of Abogar (while also receiving a generous \$5,000 gift for our Capital Campaign)! I am praising God for blessing our faith and the push to raise these vital funds!

In ministry, we have maintained our partnership with, and support for, Special Kids School, though regular visits were not allowed again this year. My wife, Irene, and I did visit with the teachers and co-founder in March though, and it was good. Fortunately, we also were able to do a special year-end program with Special Kids School on December 12th. Irene and I were accompanied by Elmer (AboGua board vice-president) and Mayra (AboGua board secretary), and we brought lots of food and house supplies for the 44 families of the students. We packaged everything together with Sonia (co-founder) and the teachers. We then did an online program, in which we shared the significance and importance of Christmas and shared the gospel message. We also sang some Christmas carols. We received the parents (and some of the children) at the front door of the school property, to distribute the packages that we had created for them! It was such an amazing event and opportunity to reconnect with the children and families, and to continue encouraging and blessing the staff! Personally, I am very thankful to Abogar's board for our recent vote to continue supporting Special Kids School in 2022!

This year we also have had no regular formal, nor informal, reunions with the children of our *Vidas Nuevas en Villa Nueva* program. Fortunately, though, we did get to be with some of the children on December 15th, as we were granted permission to take up to 40 of the children to the zoo in the capital, Guatemala City. We had 35 children with us, and 8 adult helpers. It was an amazing time, and the bond with the kids is/was just as strong as when we worked with them all weekly! Praise God! It was an amazing trip to the zoo, and a beautiful time of food, fun, faith,



and fellowship! All praise to God! We are hopeful and prayerful for pandemic restrictions to be lifted in 2022, so that we can resume regular meetings and events for these precious children!

With great transparency and vulnerability, I confess that I find myself with a bit of a preoccupation with our need to grow and strengthen the board of directors for Abogar International Ministries. I also will be attentive to AboGua's need to legally formalize and be functioning well in 2022. As I have been prayerfully listening and seeking God's guidance, I get a sense that 2022 will be focused on Building Up. We definitely need to build up our board, build up AboGua, build up the main offices and ministry location in Guatemala, build up our staff, and build up our donor support base even more. It seems to me that we are at a pivotal juncture, in which growth and upward movement are imminent. As the roots for Abogar have been deeply rooted, we can now really focus on building up the ministry. I would like to encourage us with a verse of scripture that relates well to this theme for me...

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. Psalms 127:1

May we partner with God as He leads us in how to be building up the ministry in 2022. Unless He is central to what is built, we labor in vain! Let us build with Him, and may He, and He alone, receive all the honor, glory, and praise!

CLOSING REMARKS

As we near a true mile marker for Abogar, our 10-year anniversary (3/01/2022) of the ministry being in existence, it is my great hope and desire to see 2022 full of miracles, blessings, and favor from the Lord. May we be intentional to keep looking up and building up for God's glory. It will be important to focus ourselves on strategic planning to achieve our goals, improved fundraising efforts, and develop a larger team of staff and board members, that can help to strengthen this organization, to keep the ministry moving forward and growing.

I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to each board member, donor, prayer supporter, and encourager of the ministry of Abogar International Ministries! It is inspiring and such a great blessing to see what we can do for God's glory all together when we are like-minded and like-hearted to bless the precious children and families of Latin America. May the gospel be shared even more in 2022, even more families receive love and blessings, and many more children find themselves truly a part of life-long family, life-long home, with educational opportunities! We cannot complete this work without you, so thank you for your commitment and faithfulness to partner with us in whatever manner God invites you to!



It is such a blessing, privilege, and responsibility to serve with this ministry in my position, and I personally want to thank each of you who have joined my family with your prayer support and encouragement throughout 2021. It has been a HARD but BLESSED year for sure. As Jedidiah continues growing, and my wife and I as well, we give great thanks to God for the cloud of prayer supporters and friends who have joined us in the challenges that we have been encountering! May 2022 be a great year, full of God's love, light, truth, salvation, and blessings for many!

2021 STATISTICS

- 6 New Posts/Pages
- 945 Likes on Abogar's Facebook
- ~10 Speaking Opportunities (formal)
- ~40 Sharing Opportunities (informal)
- 1 Year-End Ministry Time with Vidas Nuevas children
- 2 ministry visits with Special Kids Founder (Sonia) and the Teachers
- 1 Year-End Ministry Time with Special Kids School
- 3 teachers' full annual salaries paid – Special Kids School
- Several Food/Supplies Distributions to Families of Special Kids Students
- 322 Prayer Supporters
- 4 Dream Team Members/Couples Added to the Team
- >\$25,000 Raised in Christmas Tree Challenge!