

Joy Gring

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Joy Gring has been a missionary serving in San Raymundo, Guatemala, since 1995. As Joy reflects on her life, she feels God had been preparing her for foreign mission work from the time she was a little child. Joy was adopted into a family that was preparing to go to the mission field when she was three months old. Her parents, Richard and Rebecca Gring, spent the next seven years in northern Guatemala. Her parents then returned to the States for her father to complete his doctorate, but every year they would visit friends on the mission field. In 1976, after a major earthquake in Guatemala, Joy's parents returned there to help with the reconstruction. Amazingly, the small town where they chose to work was San Raymundo! After a year of work there, Joy's parents returned to the States and Joy completed her education, choosing to go into nursing after high school.

Nursing is Joy's passion; especially in the area of surgery. After a series of events that were no doubt orchestrated by God, Joy ended up back in San Raymundo in 1995. Since that time, she has worked with Dr. Cojon, a local doctor, and with various medical mission groups that come to the clinic in San Raymundo throughout the year. Between 35-50 surgeries are performed each year, including numerous dental clinics.

In addition to Joy's medical work, God had another plan for her, a school! What started out as a Bible class of six children has turned into a Pre-K through 6th grade school which has nearly 240 students. In 2016, the school finished Phase 6 of its building plan. There are now a total of 14 classrooms, a library, office, kitchen, covered multi-purpose area, as well as small garden plots. In addition, the school has a 45 member marching band. Joy is especially grateful to God for her teachers. One of the teachers is a full-time Bible teacher, who does a daily Bible class with each grade. The staff prays over concerns, needs and praises for each other as well as the students.

Joy has also found another passion in working with children. In 2009, she started working with an orphanage in Huehuetenango. The orphanage is about six hours from San Raymundo requiring a long trip to serve the children there. In 2012 she made four trips, two of which were with mission groups that did VBS and maintenance projects.