

Brazos Abiertos / Cross Culture Jesus

Location: San José Pinula, Guatemala

Focus: Outreach, Discipleship, and Education

Cross Culture Jesus (CCJ) is a missions-focused ministry founded by Sarah and Francisco Smith, committed to taking the gospel across cultural boundaries—just as Jesus did. While their global ministry has reached thousands across North America, Central America, and Europe, their overseas base is located just outside Guatemala City, in San José Pinula. There, they operate under the name **Brazos Abiertos (Open Arms)**, providing a Christ-centered support center for vulnerable families.

What They Do

The **Brazos Abiertos Center** in the village of Santa Inés meets physical, spiritual, and educational needs for low-income families—especially children. Guatemala has some of the highest malnutrition rates in the Americas, and Brazos Abiertos responds by offering:

- **Hot, nutritious lunches** for food-insecure children
- **Bible Clubs** for children and women, teaching the Word of God
- **Academic reinforcement**, including tutoring, computer classes, internet access, and in some cases, scholarship support
- **Birthday Bags** with hygiene items, clothing, and toys—showing each child they are loved and celebrated
- **Medical assistance** eye exams, dental hygiene, etc.
- **Women's ministry** with Bible teaching and skill-building (e.g., sewing, cooking, crafts)

Through these programs, families are not only fed and educated, but also **discipled** in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many women and children are coming to faith, growing in the Word, and stepping into lives filled with hope and purpose.

Who They Are

Francisco (a native of Guatemala and an engineer with multiple degrees) and Sarah (a Virginia-born missionary and Bible school graduate) have been serving in missions since the early 2000s. They live in Guatemala with their sons, Corban and Cohen, and carry out ministry locally and globally—teaching in churches, Bible schools, and conferences as the Lord leads.

Our Church's Partnership

We partner with Brazos Abiertos by supporting their feeding, discipleship, and education efforts. We are grateful to come alongside them as they serve the least of these with compassion and Christ-like love.

Prayer Needs

- Continued provision for meals, school supplies, and medical assistance
 - Open hearts among children and families to receive the gospel
 - Strength and encouragement for the Smith family and ministry team
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Brief Version

Brazos Abiertos / Cross Culture Jesus

San José Pinula, Guatemala | Gospel, Nutrition & Education

Cross Culture Jesus (CCJ), led by Francisco and Sarah Smith, ministers in Guatemala through **Brazos Abiertos**, a compassion center serving low-income families. Their outreach includes:

- Daily hot meals for children
- Bible Clubs for women and kids
- Academic tutoring and tech access
- Birthday gifts, hygiene kits, and medical aid
- Women's ministry with Bible teaching and skill-building

Their mission: to **share the gospel, feed the hungry, and equip the next generation**—spiritually and practically.

Prayer Needs: Provision, spiritual growth, strength for the team

Scripture Inspiration: *Matthew 25:40* – “Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for Me.”

