



 **KiDserve**
Project Guide

Thank you for helping us bring transformation to the nation of El Salvador, as together we build Christian outreach schools for the Church of God of Prophecy.



Send Offerings to:
KidServe
Attn: Children's Ministries
PO Box 2910
Cleveland, TN 37320-2910

KidServe, formerly Helping Hands for Kids, is a ministry of the Church of God of Prophecy International Children's Ministries.

Project developed by Shaun McKinley, international director of Children's Ministries and Michelle Brooks Young, International Children's Ministries project advisor, in consultation with Ruth Panameño de Pineda, national director of Children's Ministries in El Salvador, and Bishop Ismael Ticas Manzanares, national overseer of El Salvador.

Logo, layout, and design: Leslie Green, Children's Ministries



KidServe's project **BUILD-A-SCHOOL** allows you and your local children's ministry to make a significant impact in one of the most impoverished and violent nations of the world. We've partnered with the Church of God of Prophecy National Office of El Salvador to help strengthen their outreach efforts that presently serve more than 2,000 children every day with meals, tutoring, recreational activities, and spiritual training. For many children, these ministries provide them with the only stable adult influences in their lives and enables them to be academically successful and develop a trade for future employability.

El Salvador has been named "the most violent country in Latin America," and its murder rates are the highest in the region. According to the United Nations, on average, 40 children are killed every month, the victims of poverty, civil war, and natural catastrophes. 1.8 million children are a part of the nation's workforce. 4 out of 10 children live in poverty with over half of all children surviving on less than \$1.25 per day.

The national ministry team of El Salvador cast vision and united their efforts to reach the children of El Salvador. When first coming to office, National Overseer Ismael Ticas first charge to the leadership team was to seek ways to reach the children of El Salvador. "They must be our priority," he said, "as the best, most fertile soil for the Gospel. Also, the only hope for El Salvador's future is to reach the next generation with the Gospel."

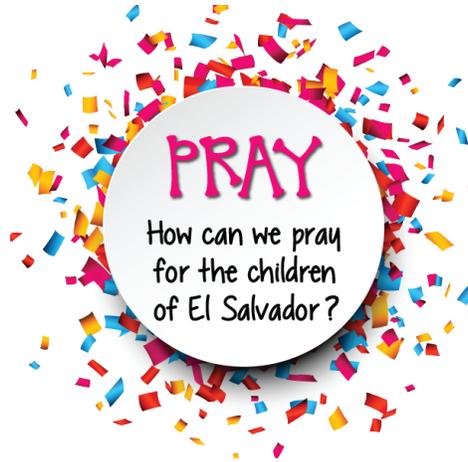
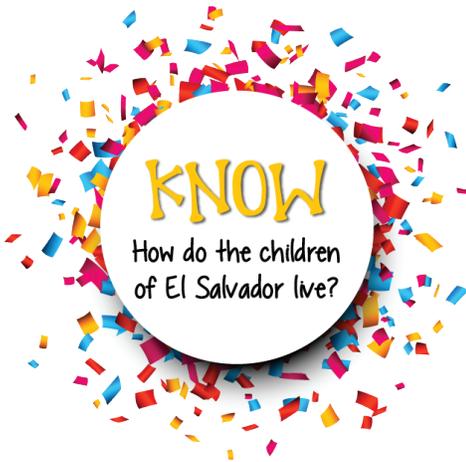
For the past decade, the Church of God of Prophecy has partnered with philanthropic organizations to open Centers of Learning in our local churches. Through the generosity of these organizations, our local ministries are enabled to hire professionally trained directors, teachers, and staff to serve the children in these centers. More than 2,000 children are served by these schools daily where they receive tutoring, participate in activities, and are taught a trade. Each school is audited monthly, and every child is evaluated regularly to ensure satisfactory progress in their studies.

Although these programs are making a significant impact in the lives of El Salvador's children and communities, the facilities housing the programs are insufficient. Because of the requirements of the donors, upgrades and expansions are required for our six flagship schools for the program to continue. Each location also has a waiting list of hundreds of more children that could be served if adequate facilities were available.

Your financial investment will allow the Church of God of Prophecy in El Salvador not only to continue this outreach program but also to expand to include even more children!

By participating in this KidServe project, we will help bring strategic transformation to El Salvador by serving its most vulnerable citizens.

This guide includes 3 mission sessions:



INVOLVING CHILDREN, FAMILIES, and the CONGREGATION:

Meet with your pastor and mission committee to present this KidServe project, "BUILD-A-SCHOOL," and obtain permission to promote this project. Consider these questions when developing your strategy:

- Will there be a one-time giving opportunity, or will you collect funds over a period of time?
- Will you incorporate the project into your weekly children's ministry time? Or will you create a special event?
- Where can you post the Build-A-School promotional flyers or promotional slide to increase awareness about the project?
- Can you introduce and promote this year's project in the church bulletin and through live, creative presentations to the congregation and children's ministry?
- When will you print the parent letter and send it home with each child after introducing the project to the children?

Optional Lesson Intro:

Nehemiah's Burden (Nehemiah 1-2)

Bible Truth: God will help me respond when I see a need.
Bible Story: Nehemiah's Burden
Bible Verse: "Lord, what would you have me to do" (Acts 9:6, KJV)?

This optional lesson could be used as an introduction to the "BUILD-A-SCHOOL" project, if you choose to incorporate the project into your normal weekly children's ministry session.

Arrival Activity: Cupbearer's Relay

Materials Needed: Two serving trays (or plates/chargers), two Styrofoam cups, crown, Bible truth poster/slide

Today we are going to learn about a special man in the Bible who God sent on a special mission! His name was Nehemiah! Nehemiah served in the palace of the Persian King named King Artaxerxes (pronounced ar-tak-SERK-seez) where he was a cupbearer. Being a cupbearer was an important job in the royal court, requiring someone trustworthy to serve drinks to the king's table.

We're going to discover just how difficult that simple job might be. You are all going to be cupbearers today! (Divide the children into two groups. Place someone at the opposite end of the room with a crown on their head, as king). In just a moment, I will say "go!" The first person in line will place the cup (without anything in it) on the tray and walk as quickly as they can to the end of the room, walk around the king, and return the tray and cup to the next person in line. If at any time the cup falls off the tray, the person carrying it has to pick it up and start over at the beginning of the line.

(Play the game)

Was being the cupbearer all that easy? Many times, things that appear to be easy are not that easy at all. As cupbearer, Nehemiah had a difficult task to do. But as we will discover today, God helped him do something way more difficult when he saw an urgent need. When Nehemiah heard that his home was in trouble, he asked God to help him be a part of the solution. That's what today is all about, "God will help me respond when I see a need." (Show Bible truth and repeat several times with children.)

Activity: Build the Scripture

Materials Needed: Slide/poster of Bible verse, two sets of blocks with the scripture verse written on it.

Preparation: Prior to the class, create two block towers using nine large Lego blocks. Write each word of the verse and the scripture reference on a block. During this activity, teams will race to put the verse in the proper order.

As we will find out today, Nehemiah heard some sad news about his home. He learned that the walls that once protected his home, Jerusalem, had been broken down. This was a major concern for Nehemiah because it meant that the city was unprotected from thieves and enemies. The Bible tells us that when Nehemiah heard this news, he sat down and wept. For many days he fasted and prayed to God for his people and what he should do.

Have you ever felt helpless and not known what to do? As you grow, you'll likely find many situations in life where you don't know what to do. But Acts 9:6 is a powerful little prayer that you can remember in times like that. (Show verse). It says "Lord, what would you have me to do" (Acts 9:6, KJV)? (Repeat several times with the children.)

God gave Nehemiah a strategy for rebuilding the wall. It wouldn't be easy, and he would have to follow God's plan precisely.

Today, we are going to build a wall using these Legos. (Scatter the Legos with the scripture verses on the floor or table). On each Lego block I have written the words to today's verse. Who thinks they can remember the verse? (Call two volunteers to race each other). When I say go, it's your job to stack the blocks in the proper order of the verse. Are you ready? "Go!"

(Play game several times to provide review of the scripture).

Activity: Broken Things

Materials Needed: Slides/printouts of pictures of broken things, Slides/printouts of pictures of children.

Today, I have brought some pictures for us to look at! (Show pictures of broken things). Each of the pictures that I shared today were of broken things. Did you have any specific feelings about the pictures that you saw? Because these items didn't belong to you, maybe they didn't bother you as much as if it were a picture of something that was yours. Do any of you have anything at home that is broken that means a lot to you and you wish were fixed?

(Allow for responses).

Let's look at some different pictures. (Show photos of children). **Do you see anything broken in these pictures?** (Allow for responses). **How can we tell?** (Allow for responses). **Yes, the children in these photos are sad. Why do you suppose they are sad?** (Allow for responses).

In the first set of pictures, we saw broken things, didn't we? But in the second set of pictures, we saw broken people because of their broken hearts.

When God sees our broken things and then He sees broken people, what do you suppose is of greater concern to Him? (Allow for responses). **Yes, he is concerned about those things that concern us, but God loves people and we are of far greater value to Him. Since we know God values people more than things, our hearts should also break when we see broken people. But the good news is that God desires to use us to help those who are sad, hurting, and hopeless.**

As our scripture reminds us, when we see a need, we can ask God, "Lord, what would you have me to do" (Acts 9:6, KJV)?

Bible Story: Nehemiah's Burden

 Share the story of Nehemiah and invite children to act it out. Select children to act out the roles of Nehemiah, his brother, King Artaxerxes, and the builders. Provide costumes, maps, building blocks, and tools as props)

The Bible tells us that one day Nehemiah's brother came to visit him. As the shared, he told Nehemiah some sad news about the city their family considered home, Jerusalem. Who remembers the news Nehemiah heard? (Allow for response). **Yes, his brother told him that the wall and gates that surrounded the city had fallen down and that the people of the city were in trouble!**

This news made Nehemiah so sad. He was troubled by the report. He wanted to help but wasn't sure what he could do. So, Nehemiah asked God, "what do you want me to do?"

Several months later, Nehemiah was serving his king. Does anyone remember what Nehemiah's job was? (Allow for responses). **He was cupbearer to King Artaxerxes. The king noticed that Nehemiah was sad, and he asked him what was troubling him. Nehemiah told him, "the city my family calls home is in ruins and the gates have been torn down."**

Because the king trusted Nehemiah, he asked him what he wanted to do. Nehemiah prayed again and asked God what he should say. Nehemiah asked the king to let him go home and rebuild the walls and gates of Jerusalem. Because the king wanted to help Nehemiah, he allowed him to return home and even supplied him with the lumber he would need for the project!

Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem and inspected all that needed to be done. He then told the people why he had returned and asked them to help. There was a lot of work to be done!

People came from far and wide to help with the huge building project! Have you ever heard someone building? Can you imagine the banging of all the hammers? The Bible tells us they worked hard for 52 days and then the walls and gates were finished. When they were done, the people worshiped God and celebrated because their city once again has safe with strong gates.

Nehemiah saw a great need and responded! Because he did, God helped him finish the task!

Application: Seeing the Need

 Materials Needed: Globe, Photos/Slides of Life in El Salvador. Photos/Slides of Church Ministries in El Salvador.

Today, I want to share a need with you. We will be asking God to help us respond to this need!

Did you know we are part of a church family that is all over the world? (Show globe). **Yes! We have family in places like Africa, Europe, and even Russia! Today I want to tell you about our family in a country called "El Salvador."** (Show El Salvador on the globe) **El Salvador is an amazing place! It has lots of mountains and beaches. It even has 20 volcanoes and some of them are still active!**

(Show Photos/Slides of Life in El Salvador). **Although El Salvador is very beautiful, many of the people struggle and feel hopeless. It is one of the most dangerous places to live. Most children don't have access to adequate food or**

clean water. Many of the children are forced to work jobs and some have joined violent gangs. Life for children in El Salvador is very difficult.

But the good news is that our church family there is working very hard to bring help and hope to these children. (Show Photos/Slides of Church Ministries in El Salvador). More than 2,000 children visit our churches after school every day where they receive tutoring, meals, play sports, and learn jobs that they can use later in life. Our churches are helping kids be healthier and happier, oh... and they teach them all about God's love!

There's one small problem. There are so many children that need this help, but our churches don't have enough space to accommodate them. Hundreds more children could be receiving tutoring, eating healthy meals, and learning about Jesus, if the facilities could accommodate them.

So, we are going to partner with churches all over the world to raise funds to help El Salvador improve or build additional schools for these children!

Just like Nehemiah, we now see a need! Will you help me pray that God will show each of us how we can respond?

Prayer:

Lead the children in praying for the needs of the children in El Salvador. Pray for the outreach programs in El Salvador. Pray for children to be aware of needs all around them. Pray that they will respond to those needs as God gives them the opportunity.



Activity: Help Me See the Need

Materials Needed: Two pipe cleaners per child, scissors



Assist the children in making pipe cleaner glasses to take home as a reminder to be watching for needs around them. Follow these simple steps to create the glasses:



1. Fold your first pipe cleaner in half.



2. On one half leave a small gap and then make a circle, twisting the end around the circle to hold in place.
3. Repeat with the other side. This creates the rims for the glasses.



4. Cut the second pipe cleaner in half.



5. With one of the halves twist the end several times around the yellow circle. Fold back other end of blue pipe cleaner so it can sit on your ear.

6. Repeat with the other side.



Now you have your glasses.





Mission Point 1:

I can KNOW more about the children in El Salvador.

Preparations

- Ahead of time, make some “pupusas,” the traditional bread of El Salvador that is served with most meals.
- Download and print off all resources: Map of El Salvador, Fun Facts, Meet the People, Pupusa Recipe, El Salvador Photos.

Discuss

- Talk about El Salvador. Using the map, have children locate the locations of the four provinces where the six major outreach centers for the Church of God of Prophecy are found, in Morazan, La Libertad, La Paz, and Cuscatlan.
- Use the provided photos of El Salvador or do a search of your own. Point out the diversity of the land.
- Show the children the flag of El Salvador.
- Show the children pictures of the Izalco Volcano. El Salvador is home to 20 volcanoes.
- Show them the Indigo art. El Salvador is the main indigo producer in Latin America because of its unique sapphire dye.
- Read and discuss the Fun Facts.
- Meet the people and introduce the Church.
- Express the need to bring hope to El Salvador.

Teaching Point

El Salvador is a beautiful place with many exciting things to see and foods to taste. But for many children who live there, life is very challenging and hopeless.

Scripture

“Lord, what would you have me to do?” (Acts 9:6, KJV)

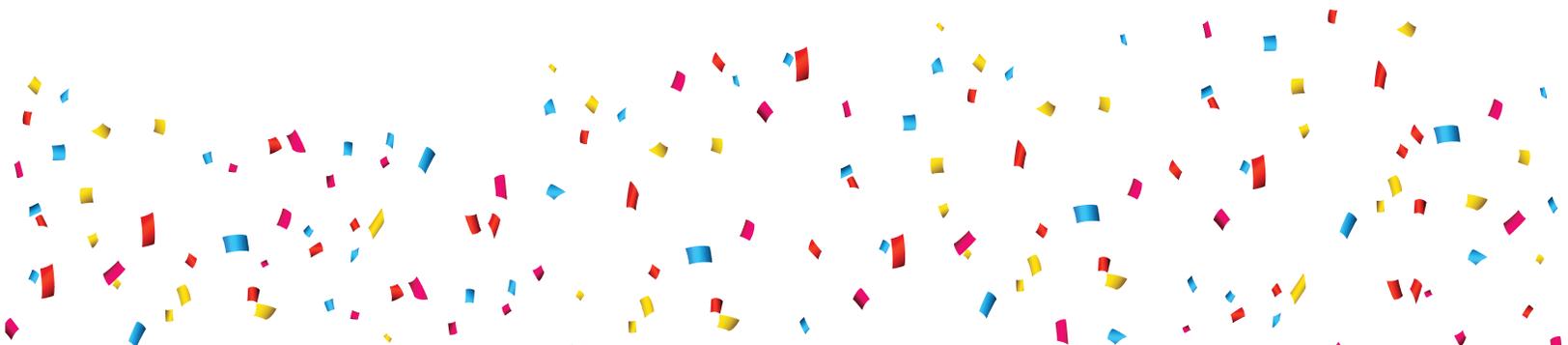
Challenge

Although we may be unable to go to El Salvador personally, we can prayerfully and financially give to those who are ministering to the hopeless and helpless. We can provide a gift of money to help the Church in El Salvador share the hope of Jesus to children and families that are struggling and hurting.

Experience the Culture

Allow the children to get a taste of the culture of El Salvador. Pupusas is the national dish of El Salvador, and the second Sunday of November is National Pupusas Day. Pupusa is thick cornmeal flatbread from the indigenous people of El Salvador. It is typically stuffed with cheese, pork, squash, refried beans, or meat mixed into the flour. Usually, it is served with “curtido,” a spicy cabbage slaw or tomato salsa. It is traditionally eaten by hand, without the use of utensils.

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• “Lord, what
• would you have
• me to do?”
•
• Acts 9:6
• • • • •





Pupusa Recipe

Ingredients:

2 cups of corn masa flour

1 1/4 cups warm water

salt

soft, white cheese (Mozzarella or Monterey Jack)

oil

Optional: Curtido Slaw or tomato salsa, pork, refried beans, pork

Directions



STEP 1:

Mix first three ingredients, for several minutes. It may look dry, but do not add extra water unless it absolutely will not stick together. Too much water or too little water will both affect the dough, and it will not form a ball properly.

STEP 2:

Roll the masa like playdough into balls. Pat your palms together to flatten the balls into disks, like thick tortillas. If the dough is too sticky, add a tiny bit more of flour; if it is too dry, add a drop more of water.

STEP 3:

Fill with cheese! You will need a cheese that can melt easily, such as Mozzarella or Monterey Jack. Put the grate cheese in the middle of the dough and bring up the sides and pinch closed. Re-mold the masa into a thick tortilla again, with the cheese blended inside.



STEP 4:

First, heat a non-stick pan: preferably a cast iron pan or a griddle. When it is heated and lightly oiled, cook the pupusas until slightly golden, 4-5 minutes per side.

You may serve the pupusas plain or provide the salsa on top or on the side.

Fun Facts

- El Salvador is known as the Land of Volcanoes. The nation has frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity.
- El Salvador is the only country in Central America that does not have a coastline on the Caribbean Sea.
- Carnival festivals in El Salvador are held regularly.
- El Salvador's major food production is rice, beans, and tortillas.
- In El Salvador, the most common language used is Spanish.
- El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America and is smaller than the state of Massachusetts.
- The national dish in El Salvador is the famous Pupusa which is a traditional Salvadoran dish made of a thick, handmade corn tortilla that is usually filled with a blend of cheese and pork, meat, or refried beans





Mission Point 2:

I can PRAY for the people of El Salvador!

Preparations

- Download and print off resources: Prayer Cards, Prayer Station Posters.

Discuss

- El Salvador has been recognized as the most violent country in all of Central and South America. Many children face dangerous conditions because of the gangs and lack of parental involvement in their daily lives. Many children are also orphans following the deaths of their parents.
- Nearly one in three El Salvadorian households experience poverty, and over half of all children survive on less than \$1.25 per day. Because of this, many children do not have access to sufficient food, clean water, or sanitation.
- Many of El Salvador's young adults grew up without their fathers, who fled the country during times of civil war. Almost 25 years later, the communities of El Salvador's communities are controlled by gangs resulting in violence and fear.
- Over 70% of El Salvador's teens are believed to be connected to or involved in active gangs.
- The ministries of the Church of God of Prophecy are focusing on reaching the children of El Salvador to help rewrite the nation's story. They are reaching more than 2,000 children every day through after-school programs where children participate in tutoring, recreational activities, Christian services, and receive a quality meal. Still, many more children need access to these programs but cannot participate due to the limitations of their facilities and requirements of local agencies.

Scripture

"Lord, what would you have me to do?" (Acts 9:6, KJV)

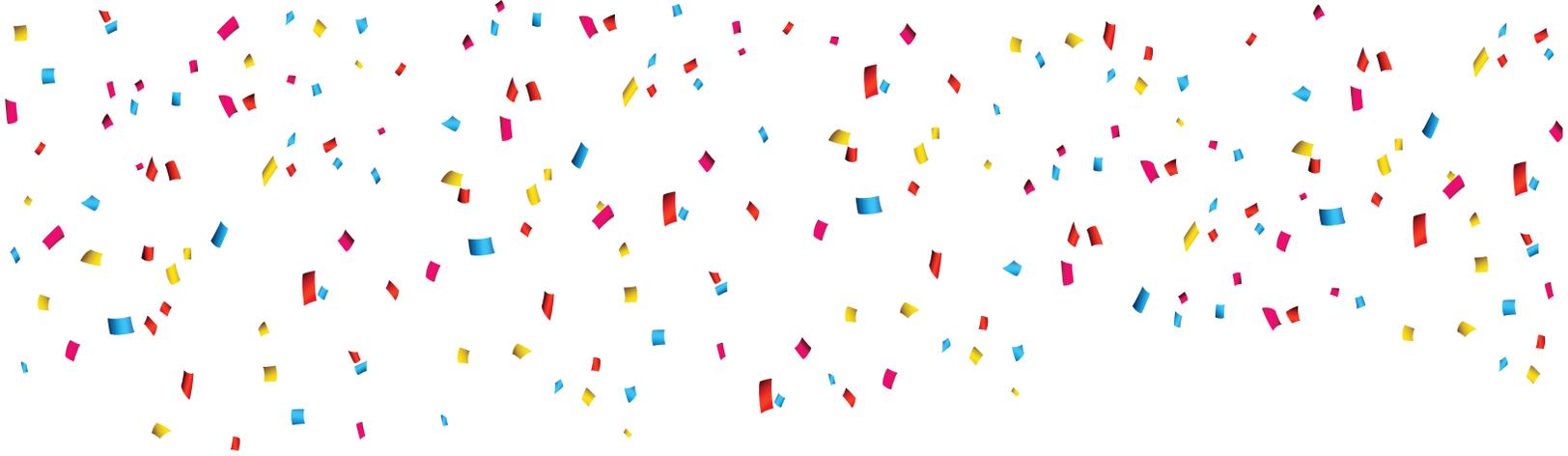
"This is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him." (1 John 5:14-15)

Target

Review with the children the needs that are present in El Salvador. Read and discuss Acts 9:6 and then explain how the El Salvadorian children are in desperate need of the hope of Jesus. For them to experience Jesus' love and the hope He gives, someone has to take Him into their community. Remind the children how the Church of God of Prophecy is delivering hope to the children of El Salvador. Explain the following four Prayer Points and reiterate how God hears us when we pray. (1 John 5:14-15)

Prayer Points

- Pray for God would heal the broken hearts of those struggling in El Salvador (Psalm 147:3).
- Ask God to bring peace to every community of El Salvador.
- Ask God to help the staff of the after-school programs to continue to serve the physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual needs of the children and be able to reach even more kids for Jesus!
- Pray that God will provide the funds necessary to construct new or enlarge existing facilities so that more children can participate in these programs.



Activity

Set up 4 Prayer Stations, one for each prayer point. At each station, a staff member will explain the prayer point and direct children in praying for that specific need.

Reinforce it!

Download and print Prayer Cards. Students can make these cards and take home as a reminder of how they can pray for the needs in El Salvador.



Mission Point 3:

I can GIVE to the people of El Salvador!

Preparations

- Download and print off resources: Build-A-School Cards, Water Bottle Labels

Review

- Mission points 1 and 2.
- Life in El Salvador.
- Remind the children of the needs in El Salvador.
- Go over the prayer points and ask children if they've been praying each day for the El Salvadorian people.
- Review scriptures.

Scripture

"Lord, what would you have me to do?" (Acts 9:6, KJV)

"This is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him."
(1 John 5:14-15)

My Gift Matters

If you taught the "Optional Lesson Intro" this would be a great way to point your students' heart towards giving their gift. The children heard how Nehemiah saw a need and asked God to help him respond. And God did! They've also heard how the children of El Salvador are in desperate need of help and hope. Our church family is responding to that need through project Build-A-School! They have an opportunity to make a BIG impact in the lives of thousands of children who need all that these schools provide – meals, tutoring, and Jesus' love! The Lord can use them to make a difference! Encourage students to decide in their heart what they will give and to give cheerfully!

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Call to Action

Pass empty water bottles out to each child. Encourage students to fill their water bottle with dimes. Each water bottle will hold approximately \$100 worth of dimes! This is an easy way to involve kids of all ages to take part in this exciting mission project. Give a due date for when offerings should be turned in.

Send it Home!

Inform parents that it's now time to give. Download, print, and send the "Build-A-School Card" home with the children.

All proceeds raised for this mission project will help the Church of God of Prophecy in El Salvador continue its after-school outreach children's ministry programs. These programs provide tutoring, activities, meals, and supplies to some of the most impoverished children in Latin America. Your financial investment will help them continue their efforts.



A DIVISION OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

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