UNSTOPPABLE

WALTON NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2013

NO LIMITS?

For 2013 the theme for our Walton International Scholarship Program is “Unstoppable”. As I prayed about a theme to challenge our Walton scholars I came across a book with this name by the Australian evangelist, Nick Vujicic, who was born without limbs. His incredible story of the incredible power of faith in action challenged me personally to count my blessings rather than look at my limitations.

IT IS MORE THAN JUST A THEME

It is my prayer as we study this topic in our monthly Walton meetings that we will each have faith in ourselves, our talents, our purposes, and most of all, in God’s love and His divine plan for our lives.

Abrazos,

Mr. J

OUR STORY - NOW ON SALE!

It was in 1985 that Sam and Helen Walton initiated a scholarship program that has blessed the lives of over 1200 young people, their families and impacted the countries of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

The book “Our Story” records the 26 year journey of this incredible program at John Brown University. It tells the amazing stories of the young people who traveled to Arkansas, their adjustments to the U.S., and their journey back home to become change agents for good.

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MORE ABOUT THIS EDITION...

NEW LEADERS
Belinda Henriquez shares her experience as part of the Student Government Association and the Pink Panther play this semester.

GUATEMALA WATER PROJECT
Ernesto Lopez and Andrea Morales take the leadership of a project that is changing lives back in their home country Guatemala.

SMLT
Junior Carla Castillo shows us how incredible is to be part of the team in charge of the spiritual growth at JBU.
“We want kids to learn about the tremendous potential for the free enterprise system and to see for themselves all the advantages of a stable democratic government.”

SAM WALTON
Walton International Scholarship Program Founder

There are many special stories about Mr. Sam and his generosity and kindness. One of my favorites is that of Fryda Guerrero, a 1991 Walton graduate. “I had only been at JBU a few weeks and was struggling with being very homesick. I decided to Walk to Wal-Mart and remember walking into the store all teary-eyed. Inside the store an older gentleman greeted me and began to talk with me. He asked me if I would like to go over to Hardee’s restaurant and have a cup of coffee and talk. At Hardee’s, as we were talking, I noticed he had a name tag that said Sam. I said, I am Fryda Guerrero. What is your last name? He smiled and said, ”My name is Sam Walton”. I looked down at his dirty shoes and his old cap and then I told him, “Thank you, thank you, thank you! I am here because of you! The richest man in the world!!!! He said, some people say that but I was convinced that he was more concerned about me— a homescik Walton scholar than his reputation of being a wealthy business man.”

(Our Story is available on amazon.com in ebook and print formats)

By Mr. Johnson

THE NEW WALTON: VICTOR JAEN QUINN

I hope to keep receiving all what I have been receiving since I arrived to JBU: Support, encouragement, and help from all my friends.

JBU is more than what I could have ever imagined. I just would like to see JBU growing up as the amazing university that it is.

NAME: Victor Jaen
AGE: 20 Years Old
MAJOR: International Business

Victor Jaen
Class 2017

HOBBIES:
- Play games on the computer
- Go to the gym
- Ride his bike
“Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you”  
-Mathew 7:7

ANALU MARIN  
WALTON GRADUATE 2012

First, I want to say the glory be to God in everything I do. Second, I want to say I miss you all! Wow, four years do go by fast. I am back home and ready for this new stage of life. I have meditated on all the things that I have done, learned and all those things that have changed since I left. I think the best lesson I learned on the past six years was to be patient in the Lord and to ask faithfully. He has answered my prayers and opened doors for me in many ways.

This last time was no exception. After being back in Guatemala for three weeks, I got offered a job opportunity in a multinational company called Transactel. I am part of the graphic design staff on the Marketing and Communications department, and will be working on a variety of design needs for internal and external use of the company. Working for this company will give me the necessary experience I need to work freelance and hopefully start my own brand in the future.

I am really excited to start this new stage in my life and I want to encourage you all not give up easily, God knows the desires of your heart and he will give you according to his will and plan. And please, enjoy your time at JBU and go out of your comfort zone and try something different. I am glad I did!

Blessings and (as our dear Mr. J would say) Abrazos!

Analu
BY CARLA CASTILLO

SMLT has been a great experience during my time at JBU! It was my first time working in an American environment, and it was a challenge for me because of the culture and language! But God taught me a lot through SMLT! I am honored of being part of the team in charge of the spiritual growth in JBU! I can see the Passion of my bosses and co-workers for God and spiritual growth. God taught me 3 things working there: Dependence on Him in every decision taken, Humbleness in being obedient to my bosses and in showing love and mercy to co-workers, and Knowing that He has control of all things because when I applied I didn’t get the position at first, but then after weeks they offered me the position I was working on: Passion Extended director (Glory to God!).

YOU ARE STANDING AT THE PLATFORM. THEY PUT A HARNESS AROUND YOUR WAIST AND SECURE YOU. BEFORE YOU EVEN TRY TO CATCH YOUR BREATH YOU ARE IN THE AIR. WITHOUT THINKING TWICE YOU JUST JUMPED. YOU NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT... BUT IT IS EXCITING!

That’s basically my story since coming to John Brown University. Since I have been at JBU I have become a part of the SGA (the Student Government Association) as well as the spring play. If you would have asked me my first week at JBU if I would jump on any opportunity that came my way, I would have absolutely said no. Three weeks later I caught myself applying to be a part of the Student Government Association. I knew that God was opening a door for me, and I should take it. To my surprise, I got the position to represent the International students. About two months later, the spring play auditions at JBU came up. Again, I saw the opportunity and jumped on it. I got a role in the play, and I was so excited to start practice in spring semester In the Pink Panther Play. I have learned about opening myself to other people, being in front of others and acquiring different personalities. When God opens a door for us we do not have to fear whether anybody will close the door that God has opened for us. SGA has shown me I can be a positive leader. How many of my decisions are based, not on what I want, but on what I’m afraid of? God has showed me of what I’m capable of doing: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” –Philippians 4:13. Being here at John Brown University is like being in a platform, having an overview of life and a sense of excitement runs through me. Every new day is a chance to change your life. As Waltons taking the huge leap into accepting the challenging of coming here, why not take more opportunities and take advantage of the huge leap you took? Take new opportunities and just jump over things have faith that God will hold you in His hand. In everything you do, believe that God can turn our mess into a beautiful message. God is our harness in life.

By Belinda Henriquez

Being involved in SMLT is amazing, not only by being part of the team, but also going in Mission Trips to awesome places like Chicago, and Panama City Florida, and being part of a Passion group (small bible study groups)! All of those opportunities have helped me to learn more about God and also meet awesome people. Through SMLT I am investing in people’s lives, and at the same time God is investing in my life.

Carla Castillo
Class 2013

By Belinda Henriquez
The Guatemala Water Project will soon bring clean water to the rural town of San Juan Cotzal, Guatemala, thanks in part to the sponsorship of the John Brown University chapter of Enactus. Senior Andrea Morales and sophomore Ernesto Lopez Chan visited the town with Joe Walenciak, associate dean of the college of business, on Jan. 2. They went to check out a building for setting up a water purification system.

As they explored this community surrounded by mountains and a wide landscape of plains and hills, Morales, Chan and Walenciak witnessed firsthand the conditions of the residents.

“The people are poor,” Joe Walenciak said. “There is lack of employment, income and access to clean water.”

The available water originated from a rusty pipe contaminated with bacteria, such as fecal coliform bacteria, which caused malnutrition and diarrhea. Adults and children missed work and school because of the sickness contracted from their water system.

Morales, Chan and Walenciak took in all that they saw and knew these people needed the water system for a better life for their family, community and generations to come.

“JBU has always helped Guatemala,” said coproject head Morales. “We have the resources and the knowledge, so we can give help to these people.”

According to the project’s website, implementation costs about $30,000. In order for the water purification machine to be set up, a secure building is needed to protect the machine from robbery and frequent earthquakes.

An option that Walenciak considered was a room in the local student center. However, the room lacked both adequate plumbing and electricity to sustain the machine. The local residents then tore down the room in hopes of constructing a secure building with quality space for classrooms and other uses.

“We were helping adapt the current building. It was a surprise to us,” Walenciak said. “What they want to build there is probably a square block building with two levels.”

In addition to rebuilding an infrastructure for the waterpurifying machine, the people of San Juan Cotzal also provided funding by selling their own used clothes, bringing in $150 in U.S. currency.

“It shows their commitment because they don’t have very much,” said Chan, the other project leader. “They are basically giving all they have. We should commit as much as they do.”

Juanita, a resident in the area, said, “For us faith is action, that is all we have.”

The Guatemala Water Project raised more than $10,000 for the cause. Under the support and advice of Enactus, Morales and Chan hope to increase the funds with donations from a concert the Dance Ministry will perform in April.

Buttons and artwork created by Guatemalan children were sold at the Guatemala Art Expo in November to raise money.

Walenciak said the people of San Juan Cotzal motivated him by their determination and faith. “Just when you think you’ve seen it all, you realize you haven’t,” he said. “They are doing what they can to make this a reality for the community. It humbled me. Do we think it is a commitment? They challenged me to do all that I can.”

For more information on how to help, email either Chan or Morales at lopezere@jbu.edu or moralesa@jbu.edu.