



August 2017

Back in our May newsletter I (Paul) gave you a little teaser about a mechanic named Greiven (Grey-bin), but before I share his story I want to provide a little context.



Many of us have seen missions come in different sizes and functions. The list is long! Pioneer (initial contact), Bible translation, church planting, and medical are a few examples. I'm sure you could add to this list. There are just as many providing assistance to the above mentioned. Need help

getting to another location? Need something printed and published? How about your vehicle or boat repaired? Help with teaching mission kids? The list goes on!

Our organization falls under community development which is generally seen as helping those, likely living in poverty and often in remote locations, find solutions to the issues or problems of their region. The goal is sustainable solutions that enable people to meet the needs facing them individually and as a community.

An effective way to begin community development is by going to an area of interest for a period of time and asking "What is needed?" The people will tell you. That is exactly what our director Alekcey and his wife Judith did after finishing residency at the Mayo Clinic. They also took note of what resources were available in the social, cultural, physical, spiritual, and intellectual realms. Fast forward to now and look at the ICDI projects ... Need safe bridges for crossing rivers ... Joel does that. Medical assistance and evacuation ... we're there too. High infant mortality

rate ... our indigenous health promoters do an excellent job with moms and newborns! Rebecca provides dental care. You get the picture.

This brings me to Greiven, who is an excellent example of the impact of our microloan project. More than a year ago I was talking with Greiven, who, at the time, was living in a city one and a half hour away and working at a car parts store, but his heart wasn't really in it. He loves working on vehicles and is definitely gifted. I think it was one of those God inspired moments when we talked about the idea of him setting up a mechanic shop in our area to provide a much-needed service. He was definitely interested but I could tell he had questions and wanted to talk it over with his wife Adriana.

I have always liked cars and Greiven and I have that in common. With the rough and difficult roads in our region it is essential to have a 4x4 vehicle that can handle the abuse, as well as a good mechanic. Car maintenance is as much a given here as death and taxes. Also, Costa Rica's annual car inspection is rigorous, but a trustworthy mechanic makes the process easier, and the current sticker on your windshield is needed to satisfy the traffic cops.

The next time Greiven and I met he was excited to share that his wife and family were on board with relocating to our region. He and Adriana both grew up here. We talked about the ICDI microloan program, the need for a secure and weather-proof building to work in, and a place for his family to live. Just a year ago he met the qualifications and became a partner (recipient of a low-interest loan) from ICDI's microloan project. Since then he built a mechanic garage with a small house on a piece of property in our community, he has a well-equipped shop, and a steady flow of customers. His family has adjusted to living in rural Costa Rica and is thriving. A team made a video of Greiven working in his shop and talking about himself. You can see on his face how happy he is to be doing what he loves – working on vehicles.

In His service,  
Paul & Bridget