## **Letters from our sponsored students:**



I'm Gerson, and in this short letter, I'll try to summarize and describe what the scholarship program has meant to my life over the years and the achievements I've made because of it.

I've been a person with many goals and objectives, which I wish to continue achieving step by step. In 2015, I began my studies for a specialty in accounting, which I had a three-year period to complete (in secondary school). Since 2016, my dear friend and wonderful Seeds of Hope sponsor, Bev, who I deeply appreciate and whose footprint will always be on my life, helped me finance my studies. At the time, it was one of my goals. In 2017, thanks to God and my sponsor's help, I achieved that goal with very good grades and a lot of new knowledge that serves me well to this day.

After achieving this goal, I couldn't continue studying due to my family's lack of resources, so I had decided not to pursue my academic training and instead dedicate myself to working. However, one Saturday, a person I also appreciate, Pastora Gloria, spoke with me about the intention of my current Seeds of Hope sponsor, Bev, and additional sponsors, Verne and Jeanne to continue supporting me with the financing of my university studies. I told her at the time that I should think about it and discuss it with my family since I wasn't raised by parents, and my grandmother, who had been my support and help throughout my life, was already advanced in age and could no longer work to help me in any way. My thought at that moment was to work to help with the household expenses of my grandmother.

After thinking about it and talking with my grandmother, I decided to take on the challenge and pursue a new goal. I began my university degree in Business Administration in 2018. This program lasts 5 years of study and requires 1 year for the thesis or graduation project. It was six years of many challenges and many difficult situations to overcome, including the death of my cousin Karen Vanessa Trejo Pineda, who also participated in the Emaus Scholarship program.

She passed away in 2021 at the age of 18 due to chronic kidney failure. She was a person I loved like a sister because we had always lived together with my grandmother, and her death was a devastating blow.

They were difficult years with difficult teachers and experiences that I had during the years when our country was an extremely dangerous place to live. One of those experiences was, one morning on my way to the university, my bus tickets and all of my food that I was bringing for the day were stolen.

But thanks to God and your support, now I can say I have achieved it; I have completed my studies. In December 2024, I successfully completed my graduation project, which we call pre-specialization here, and I was approved to graduate with a degree in Business Administration. My graduation is expected to take place on May 29, 2025.

After graduation, I want to take a break from my studies this year, 2025. However, next year, 2026, I want to start a master's degree in finance or a postgraduate degree in human talent management. This way, I can continue strengthening my knowledge and my portfolio of skills to have more opportunities in the workforce and, at the same time, help my community in any way I can contribute for the collective benefit.

The Seeds of Hope program in my life has been a fundamental pillar to achieve the academic goals that I have been able to obtain to this day, without the help of the people I mentioned previously, I probably would not have accomplished what I have now been able to achieve. Thanks be to God, I am extremely grateful to all the people who have supported my case and have been giving me their unconditional support, God will bless those kind hearts, I have no way to pay for the help that was given to me, but the word of God says that he sees the hearts of each one and I have no doubt that he will bless your lives and your big heart to help. Thank you Bev, thank you Verne and thank you Jeanne, I have no words to express my enormous gratitude towards you. Thanks to my family and God I am now a person who can be a benefit to my community and society. Thanks to you I am a person with a very good academic degree.

Thank you and God bless you, My Friends, Gerson.