

Hope after the Eruption (cont)

The smell was very strong like sulfur. They transferred us to an ambulance. Another of my sisters called me and told me to save myself. She said that she and the rest of my family were leaving our town of San Miguel Los Lotes but that my father didn't want to leave. In the background of the phone call I could hear horrible screams around our house. I was very scared and I decided to go to my boyfriend's house in Chimaltenango. When I got there, I was able to call my sister and I asked about all of my family and especially my small niece. My sister told me that my niece was not well because she had turned around to look as they were leaving and she saw all the people running and screaming and she was very scared and shaking. I saw the news on TV and I was worried and couldn't sleep. At eleven o'clock that night I spoke with my sister again and found out that my father had also left town and my whole family was in Alotenango in a shelter. The next day I joined my family.

Now we are in the shelter in Antigua Guatemala run by the God's Child Project. My father told us his story and we were all sad and cried because it had taken us so much work to build our house and we had a place to live, and now we had nothing. We remember what we saw and heard. It's hard to talk about it. With the psychological support from the psychologists at CEDEPCA, we have heard stories, emotions and feelings from others. Now I know that it's not only me who is feeling worried, deeply affected, and sad for having lost our home and our town and people who were important to us. This psychosocial support has shown me that I can have hope in the midst of this difficult situation."



Bianka Paz, a Psychologist from CEDEPCA, along with Doris Sarmoles and her family who are sheltered in the grounds of the "God's Project" Association in Antigua Guatemala.

Photo by Heidy Gonzalez on June 7, 2018.