



# About the Film



## Production History

*Blessed Fruit of the Womb* was filmed primarily over two weeks in Fall 2011 in several communities near Lake Atitlan. The film was produced as an effort to shed light on the challenges WINGS and others face in delivering family planning education and reproductive health services to the people, especially women, of Guatemala.

## Characters

**Ester Pop**, 51, was born into a family of 15 children and witnessed firsthand the many difficulties that facing large families in Guatemala. Married at a young age, Ester became a widow and single mother of two at only 21 when her husband was kidnapped during Guatemala's civil war. At 23, she found herself delivering her first baby without any formal training when a woman she was visiting experienced a rapid labor. This inspired Ester to seek education to become a nurse and midwife, and she eventually earned her nursing degree. In 2011 and 2012, Ester worked with WINGS as a family planning educator, and is a current member of WINGS' network of volunteer family planning promoters. She also continues her work as a midwife in Sololá, Guatemala, providing much-needed support and assistance to pregnant women in communities near Lake Atitlan.



**Evelyn Roquel**, 29, is the mother of two daughters - 7 and 1 ½ years old. Evelyn's parents did not talk openly about family planning to her or her four siblings and, like many men in Guatemala, Evelyn's husband was initially opposed to discussing contraception. Despite this, Evelyn remained committed to planning her family and eventually convinced her husband that spacing out their pregnancies, and limiting their family size to two children, would enable them to have a better life. Before working with WINGS, Evelyn provided nutrition education to communities in Chimaltenango, Guatemala, while volunteering with WINGS as a family planning promoter. In 2009, WINGS hired Evelyn as family planning educator and training facilitator. Three years later, Evelyn left WINGS to find work

that would allow her to spend more time with her infant daughter. Today, Evelyn works for the Bridge Association, educating women and children about nutrition and food security, while pursuing a degree in social work.



**Gutiérrez Family:** The parents are opposed to the use of family planning methods and have had 10 children, of whom 4 are still alive. The eldest boy is no longer in school, and shines shoes to help earn money for the family.

**Barreno Family:** The parents have utilized family planning methods and have four children.



**Vicente Batz:** Baptist Pastor who supports family planning.

**Father Ricardo Vásquez:** Catholic priest who is opposed to family planning.

**Consuelo Esquivel:** Advocate for women's rights with REMUPAZ (Women's Peace Building Network).

**Mónica Díaz:** Child Health Monitor and Nutritionist with the Department of Health in Sololá.

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## The Filmmaker

After studying photography and film at Harvard University, Costa Rican-American Charlene Music has worked as a filmmaker in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the USA, winning numerous international awards. Charlene received her MFA in documentary filmmaking from Stanford University in 2009 and has since been the director of photography for feature-length documentaries and has also partnered with Silicon Valley companies like Facebook, Pinterest, and Quora. Charlene was the cinematographer for President Obama on his 2012 re-election campaign.

**Boundless Media** partners and collaborates with international and humanitarian organizations to tell personal stories, effect social change, and empower communities through documentary film production and photography. For more information, visit their website at [www.boundlessmedia.org](http://www.boundlessmedia.org).