



## What a Trip!

These are the words that come to mind to describe 2011! The first 10 months were full of great events, blessings, challenges, and disappointments. The last two months of 2011 went just as quickly and were just as full. We began our travels in two places. Byron traveled to **Georgia**, visiting two new churches. Hawatthia went to **Wyoming** to report to the churches that support our work. We met up in **Indianapolis**, where we stayed for a week printing and preparing our material that would be used for our travels while we reported and raised funds. We were blessed to have several who gave of their time to help “production” go great! Thank you brothers and sisters and **Kingsley Terrace church** for your support!



During our visits in November, December and January, we often would split up to cover more ground. After leaving Indianapolis, Hawatthia and Byron traveled to **Colorado**. After visiting several churches there, in about mid-November, we traveled to Europe to participate once again in the **Churches of Christ Retreat in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany**. This was the 48th one! The theme was “**What Keeps You Going?**” We prepared the classes and activities for the teenagers around this theme. The attendance this year was better and we had, on an average, about 13 teenagers (we say about, because some came after others and others left before it was over). While there, several of those in

charge discussed the need to begin to encourage a good attendance for the 50th celebration! If you have ever attended a retreat in Germany in the past, it would be great if you could make plans to come back for this momentous occasion (If you have never been, it would be a great time to visit).



Once in Europe, but prior to going to Germany, we spent a week with good friends, **Jeremy and Rebecca Korodaj**, missionaries in **Padua, Italy**. They and **Jeff and Tia Brauer** have been working diligently in this part of world. We joke with them because we were supposed to see the sights while we were there, but spent most of our time in their apartment, talking and enjoying great conversations. We must really like each other because we all piled in their car, along with their 2 dogs, and traveled together to the retreat in Germany.

Once back in the States, we made many more visits to many more congregations, 39 in total. The states include, **California, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama**. There are so many details we cannot include because the travel itself would take up our whole newsletter. We do, however, want to say **THANK YOU** to all the brothers and sisters who showed us such great hospitality, treated us so graciously and encouraged us to continue in the work God has given us to do.



# Linda Vista

As soon as we returned to Guatemala, we were glad to see our spiritual family at the Linda Vista congregation. Soon, Anibal placed us back on the preaching schedule, we began to teach the New Christian's class, and we were back to work as usual. In addition to serving with the church, we also got right back into the classroom at Instituto Teológico Latinoamericano (ITL); Lord willing, we will send out a separate report to discuss ITL.



While we were in the U.S., there were two other souls added to the body of Christ, **Eduardo and Diana Garcia**. Diana had

been visiting for a little while and Eduardo periodically. Two of Eduardo's sisters, **Lorena** and **Maritza**, have been faithful with the church and were instrumental in getting Diana and Eduardo to begin to visit last year. **Rogelio Calderon** began to study with them, and in November of 2011 they were both immersed for the remission of their sins. It was good to see them in the New Christian's class when we returned. We wish we had a picture to include, but we do not on this occasion.

Speaking of Rogelio Calderon, please keep him in your prayers. Many of you remember and some of you have met him. He is **Maclovio Calderon's** brother (Maclovio is our treasurer and one of our leaders). A few years back Rogelio came out of the Pentecostal church, having served as a Pentecostal preacher, and became a Gospel preacher. He and his wife, **Cristobalina**, were the ones who planted the church in Coban. Because of health problems, Rogelio moved back to the capital city and has been working with the church in Linda Vista. However, he

continues to suffer from health problems, primarily with gall bladder issues. The medical system here is not the best and he has tried several doctors and hospitals, but has not received the needed attention. Currently, he is visiting the Hermano Pedro Hospital in Antigua Guatemala, and we are hoping that they will give him the treatment and care that he needs. Please keep his name before the Father.



We sent out a message a couple weeks (so we will only be brief here) about the sad news that came to the church of Linda Vista after three deaths took place during a short period of time. None of these deaths could be celebrated from a Christian perspective. On February 23, **Alexander Sarazua**, a 20 year-old young man, died because of cancer and left this world without becoming a Christian. On February 26, **Maria Luisa Segura**, a Christian who was not faithful, was hit and killed by a car. Then, on March 5, **Julissa Calderon**, one of our teenagers tragically took her life, causing great grief to her parents, Maclovio and Vicky, and to the whole church, in general.

This last death, especially, has been very difficult on everyone because of the circumstances and nature of the heartbreak. Please continue to pray for the three families involved, the **Sarazuas**, the **Pirils** and the **Calderons**, and for the church in general. As a result of these deaths, especially the last one, we have been involved in teaching special classes in order to help the church and the families deal with the grief. Pray that we can minister to these families and give them the love and support they need during this difficult time.

## Miscellaneous Items

Much of our time since January has been involved in teaching and in the activities associated with ITL. We will send out a separate report on that aspect of our work in a separate newsletter.

We are looking forward to those individuals who are making plans to come this summer to work with us here in Guatemala. Thus far, we have brethren from Idaho who plan to come in June, there are several others who are coming in July, and we have two WEI teams, Lord willing, coming the latter part of July and the beginning of August. Please pray for everyone traveling, for our combined efforts and for us as we prepare for their visits.

Politically, Guatemala is now under a new administration. In January of this year, Otto Perez took the presidency. It will be interesting to see if he follows through with at least part of his promises and plans. Keep Guatemala in your prayers so that those in authority might take their responsibility before God as they govern the country.

### Websites and Online Giving

We would like to mention one other bit of information that we hope will interest you. We have two websites that are dedicated to our work in Guatemala:

[WWW.MISSIONGUATE.COM](http://www.missionguate.com)

And

[WWW.ITLGUATEMALA.ORG](http://www.itlguatemala.org)

The first one is dedicated to ITL the second one is dedicated to our mission work in general. Also, we have added online giving to the options in which you can donate to the work in which we are involved. Please go

the “missionguate” website to use this option. We hope to soon include it in the ITL



website. We are very thankful to **Matthew Goulding** for helping us with our ITL website and **Chris O'Banion** for his help with our mission website. There are some improvements we still need to make, but we hope that you will visit them and give us your thoughts and suggestions.

We would like to close by thanking our supporters for making it possible for us to be in Guatemala. Thank you for your confidence and love. Also, thanks to all of you who constantly keep the work here and us in your prayers. May God bless you abundantly!

**Byron E. Benitez &  
Hawatthia “Hi” Jones**  
Missionaries

“Teaching the CENTRAL MESSAGE in  
CENTRAL AMERICA!”