

# World English Institute Report 2012

September 28, 2012

¡Saludos de Guatemala! (Greetings from Guatemala)

We hope you are enjoying getting caught up on the Lord's work here in Guatemala. Even in a year where Satan has been hard at work, we still have a lot of good things to report. In the past couple of days you should have received our June Team Report and our July Team Report. These two teams came five days apart, with visitors from Paraguay in between. The next set of teams came even closer together. The first **World English Institute** (WEI) team came on the same night that our July team departed. The second WEI team arrived the night that our first WEI team departed. Are you a little confused? Don't worry, so were we! Hopefully, you will see things clearly by the end of this report, which is dedicated to these two WEI teams.

This year, for the fourth time in a row, we were blessed to host teams from World English Institute. We continue to be impressed with the caliber of teachers that are involved with this ministry and the work that each of the teachers does while here. Needless to say, we continue to be sold on WEI!

WEI, a program developed by Brother **Dick Ady**, uses the Bible to teach English. The use of the Bible as one of their text books and the fact that the courses are free of charge are major drawing factors for those wishing to study English here in Guatemala. The lessons are designed to lead the student from the beginning of the Bible through God's story of redemption by using Bible stories to develop conversation and to create dialogue. We are thankful to God for such men as Brother Ady. He has such a love for the lost and has so capably written the materials for WEI.

We had 25 students signed up to attend the classes. These students have a variety of backgrounds. Some are housewives, others high-school students, and some doctors, lawyers, accountants and school teachers, just to name a few. Some of them speak English very well and the practice they get with these classes usually makes their English skills even better. What excites us more, however, is that many of our stu-



dents often find developing their knowledge of the Bible more interesting than developing their knowledge of English details. They know from the beginning that not only are we offering an English course, but also the opportunity to study God's Word, which only creates a greater desire to study for most of our students.

The students, if they desire, can also continue their studies on line after the teams depart. In addition to their Bible knowledge, once a student completes the advanced course, that student, if he or she wishes, can take the exam often referred to as the TOEFL (**Test Of English as a Foreign Language**). This is the exam that most U.S. universities require before accepting foreign students. It is also the test that opens many job opportunities in Guatemala. Of course, the ultimate goal we hope will be developed in the students is to discover how to get their lives right with the Lord, to pass His test, if you will.

The hotel where the teams stayed, the **Grand Tikal Futura Hotel**, is a very comfortable and nice hotel. It centrally located and the area around this hotel has become a major shopping and eating area. There are two fairly large malls and just about any type of food that you would want. If you're not in the mood for Guatemalan food, you can always go to IHOP, KFC, Pizza Hut or a number of other North American restaurants. This hotel provided us, without additional cost, a meeting room each day for the studies. This saved a lot of money. Also, we gave several of their staff members the opportunity to study with WEI each day, which works well for the teachers and the hotel.

For simplicity, we will call the first team, team one, and the second, team two. For 2012 we had a total of seven teachers, three on team one and four on team two, over a time span of four weeks. Team one consisted of three teachers: **Nancy Petrokansky**, the team coordinator, **Tom Jenner** and **Emma Stallworth**. Nancy and Tom are from Waterbury, Conn., and worship with the Waterbury Church of Christ. This was Nancy's fourth time to come to teach for WEI in Guatemala. She did an excellent job coordinating the team, as this was her first time in this position. It is evident that Nancy is a school teacher as you watch her effectively use those "teacher skills" while she's working with her WEI students. This was Tom's first time to Guatemala and his first time to teach WEI. He adapted very well and worked very well with the students. He also led devotionals each morning for the team. Emma is from Hartford, Conn., and worships with the Southwest Church of Christ. This



*Maria and her teacher, Emma*



**WEI Team 1 and some of their students**



*Nancy studying with Romeo*



*Juan Carlos studying with Tom*

was her second time to come to teach WEI here. Emma has a very quite spirit

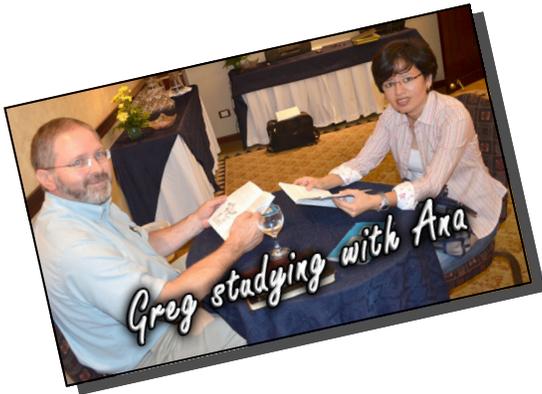
and her students love her. She is so soft spoken and kind hearted.

The classes were held from Monday to Friday. Team one's teachers had eight students each and began their day at 9 a.m. All of the slots were one-on-one situations, except one in the afternoon, when they had that two students at one time. The teachers enjoyed a three-hour break in the middle of the day. They used this time for lunch, which meant exploring new restaurants, etc., in the area, and for down time to pre-

pare for the last four students. Their last students studied from 6 to 7 p.m.

While here, team one had the opportunity to worship with the **church family at Linda Vista** on two Sundays. The Linda Vista family always looks forward to having our WEI teachers worship with us. The teachers also had one full Saturday off, during which they traveled Lake **Atitlan**, a very beautiful lake with three volcanoes surrounding it. They had their own tour guide providing them the opportunity to know a little more about Guatemalan culture. After they arrived back to the hotel in the evening, we joined them for dinner. Before their departure, **Hi** was able to take them during their three-hour break to the central market in **Zone 1** for some additional shopping. Also, on the Thursday before departing, team one was able to join the ITL staff and students for lunch at our preacher's school, **Instituto Teológico Latinoamericano (ITL)**. Team one departed on Saturday morning, July 28. That night team two arrived.

Team two had four members in it from three states: **Greg Weston**, the team leader, his wife, **LaDon**, **Anna Pride** and **Josh Toney**. Greg and LaDon are from Ashland, Oreg., where Greg serves as the minister for the Ashland congregation. Greg and Anna have been to Guatemala four times, but this is the first time they serve on the same team. Greg has coordinated the four teams with which he has come. Anna is from Waterbury, Conn., and worship with



the Waterbury Church of Christ. On her first two trips she served as co-coordinator and on the third visit she served as the team's coordinator. Her zeal for the teaching in this program is evident as she spends time, sometimes during her lunch break, with the students. LaDon joined Greg on the second year and has been here three years now. She is a very dedicated teacher and a great example for her students. She and Greg also have traveled to other countries teaching with WEI. Josh is from Wewoka, Okla., and worships with the Wewoka Church of Christ, one of our supporting congregations. This was his first time to visit Guatemala. He came to see and to be a part of our regular work in the mornings and to teach WEI in the afternoons. Josh was an asset to the team and we enjoyed hosting him in our home during his two-week stay here. Everyone



at Linda Vista also enjoyed meeting Josh and getting to spend time with him.

Three of the teachers on team two had seven students each day with the same schedule as the team one. Josh had four students because he only taught in the afternoons. This team also had the opportunity to worship with the Linda Vista family. Greg preached the first Sunday morning and the second Sunday night of their visit. Jose delivered a chapel lesson to the students and staff at ITL. Both of them did an outstanding job in their lessons. On their Saturday off they decided to book a tour to the beautiful city of **Antigua**. While in Antigua they visited the **Filadelfia Coffee Farm**, which is located on the outskirts of the city. For anyone who likes coffee, this is always a great experience; you even get to taste the coffee before buying. The gift shop at the farm also has a good selection of typical goods and Guatemalan chocolate. The team also did some shopping in the market in Antigua. All of the team members said they enjoyed their day in Antigua.



Like the first team, they enjoyed their last Thursday's lunch time with the staff and students at ITL. During this visit Anna, who participates in our Help Train Messenger's Ministry (HTM) for ITL, presented the student that she is helping, Gabriel, with

## Teaching the CENTRAL MESSAGE in CENTRAL AMERICA!

three gifts. Gabriel made 3 A's during one of his semesters and Anna rewarded him with a books for each one of them. These gifts were very practical and something Gabriel will be able to use in his ministry. We appreciate Anna, and others who are part of our HTM ministry. For those of you who want to be a part of HTM, there will be more details in our ITL updates. But, if you're so excited about helping a student and can't wait for the ITL update, please feel free to e-mail us for more details. 😊

Being able to offer WEI classes four years in a row seems to have made a favorable impression on some



returning students. Perhaps some thought at the beginning that this program would “come and go” as do many programs do in Guatemala. We believe that many are now seeing the teachers and us more as friends than as a program, which is an important step in this culture. These visits have also afforded the teachers, especially with the returning students, an opportunity to go deeper in the Scriptures. There has been expressed interest by some of the students

to continue their Bible study portion of WEI with the two of us. Please pray that we will be able to provide the attention needed to these students.

We give our heartfelt thanks to both teams for all the work that you did with WEI while you were here. We look forward, Lord willing, to having WEI back in Guatemala in 2013. We also know of several students that are looking forward to your return. Please pray that we will be able to use this tool to bring much glory to God's name in this country. God bless this ministry as each teacher goes from country to country using English to plant the seed of the Gospel!

To close, we want to tell you that we have several additions to the Kingdom in this part of the world. Our next report will give you details about some of them. Please be on the lookout for this report. We hope you will rejoice with us and the angels in heaven after reading it.

We love you!

¡Dios los bendiga!

*Hawatthia  
Byron*



We are on the Web  
[www.missionguate.com](http://www.missionguate.com)  
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