

June Mission Team Visit to Guatemala

Monday, September 24, 2012

Thursday & Friday

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We hope and pray that you are all well and enjoying the bountiful blessings of our God above. We are doing fine and keeping very busy with the work the Lord has for us here in Guatemala.

If good intentions finished messages and sent them via e-mail, you would have received this message several weeks ago. We have been writing it as time has permitted. However, we decided not to send bits and pieces, but until we finished it. We believe it's easier to read as one message and not several ones. ☺

Once again it is with great joy that we write to update you on the work here; this time, it is on the visit of our June team. This team was made up of 11 individuals, all from the Linder Road congregation in Meridian, Idaho. After a flight delay, thankfully the team arrived safely to Guatemala. **Clint Davison**, one of the ministers at Linder Road served as the team coordinator. Others on the team were **Linda Bellem-Krause, Carlos Gonzales, Enrique Gonzales, Jeremy Havlik, Dave and April Hornsby, Larry**



Johnson, Ron Oldham, and Wendell and Linda Welch.

The team arrived late in the evening and

was taken directly to the hotel to get settled into their rooms. Since most of them had "enjoyed" a full day of travel, we decided to allow them a little more time to sleep the next morning. ☺



On Friday, the group visited a coffee plantation and shopped at the local market in Antigua. That night, we had our annual get-together for this team

in our home, inviting several members from Linda Vista so that they could meet and get acquainted with the team members. The evening was full of food and

fun. The annual challenge in the game of Jenga did not fair very well this year; the men lost. Thankfully, another team came the first week of July. You will hear in our July report if the men regained the championship (or should we say pride?). ☺



Saturday

On Saturday, the team conducted a seminar in Linda Vista. The theme was **Serving God Acceptably**. We began with a combined assembly where Clint Davison spoke on the topic of **Serving God Acceptably Because He Deserves It**. After the



combined class time, the ladies used the front half of the auditorium and enjoyed singing and two lessons delivered by Linda Welch and Linda

Bellem-Kraus. The men used the back half of the auditorium and received one lesson each from Wendell Welch and Jeremy Havlik. The children went to their classrooms where they had classes under the direction of April Hornsby. We were blessed to have on this team two brothers who are originally from Peru, Carlos and Enrique Gonzales, who served as translators. The comments from everyone attending were very positive. It was a blessing for our members and visitors to sit at the feet of brothers and sisters who definitely came prepared to teach God's word.



Sunday

Sunday was a special day of worship and service. Men from Linda Vista and the U.S. led the congregation in bilingual worship assemblies. Larry Johnson, an elder from Linder Road, preached the Sunday morning sermon with Byron translating. Our Bible classes followed with Dave Hornsby teaching the adults. Our children's classes were led by April Hornsby. Once again those attending each class were fed a spiritual feast.



Immediately following worship we traveled to the home of **Adela Garcia** for our lunch meal. It has become a custom to go to this home for the midday meal on Sunday. After enjoying a delicious meal together the group traveled to the hospital in Amatitlan, about 25 minutes from Linda Vista. They distributed evangelistic material and care packages to the



patients, prayed with several of them and simply gave words of hope and encouragement. The congregation at Linda Vista has special permission from the hospital administrator to visit with the patients after visiting hours are over. This visit to the

hospital is an eye-opening experience for our guests. They are touched by what they see in this particular hospital, which represents much of the medical care given in this small country.



To top off the day, we returned to Linda Vista for the evening assembly, which was also bilingual. Clint Davison preached on the subject of **Serving God Acceptably Until the End**. Men from Linda Vista

and from the United States took various parts in leading the worship service. It was an edifying way to close a very busy day.

Monday & Tuesday

After a good night's rest, the team was ready to begin a couple of days of physical labor. The team worked in the city of Amatitlan in a small hospice called **Hospicio Villa de la Esperanza**. This hospice is a place for children in their final stage of any terminal disease, typically cancer. Some of you may remember Byron's cousin's 15-year-old daughter, Katy, who died last year of cancer. She spent her final days in this hospice.



The team, along with the students from our Bible Institute and some of the members from Linda Vista did quite a lot of work at this location. Some painted while others dug trenches and started the building of a small storage room. They worked under the supervision of Felipe Lopez, a former member of the Linda Vista congregation, who now worships with his family at the Amatitlan congregation.

The team did a super job in giving a "face lift" to the entire property. In addition to the normal painting of the rooms, this team had a very talented artist with them, Jeremy Havlik. Jeremy was able to paint very beautiful children's story characters on the now newly painted walls. This made a big difference in the walls and really brightened up the place.



In addition to all, each worker was well nourished each day with delicious food prepared by **Isabel Tovar** and



the team of ladies that helped her. These ladies cooked enough food each day to also feed those who work at the hospice. Felipe, who took time from his regular job, was hired to lead the project and to finish what the team did not have time to complete. The team worked in this location Monday and Tuesday.



Wednesday

Wednesday was another full day. In the morning, we visited the Guatemala City downtown area. We also visited the central market. After lunch we traveled to Linda Vista for a time of visitation in some of our member's homes. The day closed with our Wednesday night Bible study. Following the devotional time, Clint Davison spoke to the males, while Linda Welch spoke to the females. They spoke on the subject, **Serving God Acceptably In Our Homes**. The children's classes were once again led by

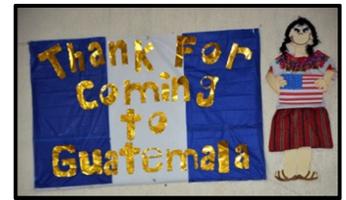


April Hornsby with helpers from Linder Road and from Linda Vista. As usual, the classes were well prepared and an uplift to the congregation.



Because the team would be traveling the next day and would not be back to Linda Vista, the church gave

them a going away appreciation dinner that night. This was our small, but loving, way to show how much we appreciate the team for coming our way to bless our lives with all they did while in Guatemala. During this celebration there were some group games in which we got to see hidden talents of some of the team members. Afterwards, we had dinner, which was prepared by several members of the congregation. After the good meal, some going way gifts were given to the team members. Needless to say, a lot of tears were shed as this was the last night for all of us to be together. We closed the evening by singing the familiar song, When We All Get to Heaven, in English and in Spanish at the same time. This was surely a reminder of what heaven is going to be like. Thankfully though, in heaven there will be no partings. ☺



Thursday & Friday

Thursday and Friday were two days full of travel and of various activities. On Thursday morning, we checked the team out of their hotel in Guatemala City. We then headed to San Cristobal, Alta Verapaz, about a 5-hour drive with a group this size. San Cristobal is north of Guatemala City and it is the city where 5 members from our first ITL class went to start a new church. Thankfully, that work is going well. Information on this work, Lord willing, will be coming soon in another message.

The primary reason for traveling to San Cristobal is that the Linder Road congregation helps to support **Abner Ramos**, one of our graduates and one of the preachers there. Some on the team had never met Abner, while others had met him during their visit in 2008. However, none of the team had been to San Cristobal, so this gave all of them the opportunity to see the work first hand and to be a part of it.

We arrived into the San Cristobal area in the late afternoon and went directly to the hotel. This allowed us to get checked in and for the team to have a little time to freshen up before going to the San Cristobal meeting place for a planned activity. Although

everyone was a little tired from travel, there was still enough energy to preach and teach that evening. And, once we arrived to the San Cristobal meeting place, the brethren there greeted us with open arms and were ready to worship God and have a great evening of fellowship.



In San Cristobal we opened with a brief time of worship together. Afterwards, there were classes for the adults and young people. There were

special classes for the children, as well. All the classes were taught by various team members from the Linder Road congregation. From the comments that we received everyone at San Cristobal received a blessing from the time spent with this team. It was especially true for Abner in that he had an opportunity to be with a group of people who has placed a great deal of confidence in him through their financial support.



On Friday, we had breakfast at the hotel and headed back to the capital city. On the way back we made a stop and visited a cave close to that area called the Grutas del Rey Marcos (Caves of King Mark). This was even the first time for the two of us to visit this cave. This was a fun and a “not at all” relaxing



activity. ☺ The hike to the center of the cave was a little difficult at times. It was dark, which is the reason we all were made to wear

hard hats with lights on them. In the cave there were many large and small rocks on which we had to walk (some slippery), many ups and downs with areas where the hard hats really came in handy. There were areas with water to cross and with ropes on which we had to hold. However, once we reached the center there was a gratification that everyone made the course. Our guide then had everyone to turn off their lights and we experienced 100% darkness. After a few pictures in the dark (imagine that!), we made our way back to the light at the end of the tunnel (literally). We are grateful that everyone was able to

finish the course and to return without problems. After leaving the cave, we continued our journey to Guatemala City.



After arriving to Guatemala City, we checked the team back into their original hotel for their last night's stay with us. They departed for their homes very early on Saturday and we are grateful to God that each of them made it safely. In addition, we are grateful to God that members from the Linder Road family took out of their busy schedules to come to Guatemala to share time with us.

We close by saying THANK YOU to each of you who came to work with us in Guatemala. You truly blessed our lives and it is our prayer that God will grant you many more opportunities to serve in Guatemala! Now that you have seen the great need that there is in this small country, may God place in your hearts to always pray for the Linda Vista congregation and other congregations of the Lord's church here in Guatemala. We will definitely keep you in our prayers. We love you!

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. We hope you enjoyed the included pictures. Please let us know if you were not able to view them for some reason. ¡Dios los bendiga!

Con amor en Cristo,

*Hawatthia
Byron*

“Teaching the CENTRAL MESSAGE
in CENTRAL AMERICA!”