

AMBASSADORS for JESUS CHRIST

Guatemala, Central America

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

2 Cor. 5:20



Lisa N Arthur Camarena

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In 1997, we met a woman carrying her toddler on the little dirt road going to town. We immediately struck up a friendship. At that time, we worked in the remote villages and traveled a lot. Returning



home one day from a long village journey, Helen stopped us on the dirt road. "Some ladies in the community have been talking and we want you (Lisa) to teach us more about the Bible and how to pray. We'll meet at your house every week!" Having been in Guatemala less than a year, Lisa's immediate response was going to be, "No way!" In English would be fine, but she didn't feel ready to teach in Spanish! Art gently put his hand on hers and reminded her that God wasn't looking for someone who spoke perfect Spanish. He was just looking for someone available to serve Him. With that said, Lisa's question back to Helen was, "Well, do I even get to pick the day?" We started the next Thursday and have met in our home on Thursdays for over 20 years now. *Left: The original group 1997, Sandra (far left) and Helen, holding the toddler (who is now married and expecting) have been involved in the Bible Study throughout the 20 years. Right: Lady's Bible Study, December 2017.*

Lady's & Children's Bible Study and Boy's Club's Christmas Party 2017

We served 60 Christmas tamales to the ladies and children the day we celebrated the Lord Jesus' birth. The ladies were tightly squeezed in the "Upper Room" before it was expanded.



Singing Silent Night

Inauguration of soccer field with soldiers from a local base - 1998.



New Boy's Club playing on the same field Dec. 2017.



Art gave the Boy's Club a new soccer ball. They missed no time in putting it to good use on the soccer field we installed for the first Boy's Club in 1998.



E-X-P-A-N-S-I-O-N

This ministry and all of its benefactors want to express their heart-felt gratitude to those who participated in making our recent expansions possible. It was anything but quiet around here during the holidays while brick walls were being knocked down in our home. We had numerous projects going on at the same time, work crews coming and going with countless decisions that had to be made every day as we converted a small house on the property into the Children's Bible Study rooms and expanded the size of the "Upper Room" (our main ministry room). But it was worth it all when we saw their faces! Thursday, January 11th was our first kick-off for the 2018 Bible Studies. We inaugurated the new colorful children's facility. One of the girls that grew up in the Children's Bible Study, now married and a teacher, volunteered her talent to paint the colorful murals during the holidays. Joy was in the air as a set of very impoverished twins won 2 of the 3 backpacks we raffled off, with the new school year starting in a few days. Then, using the new sidewalk that connects the two facilities, the ladies were astonished when they walked in and found the "Upper Room" had been expanded and newly painted. When the children finished their study, they discovered the new trampoline the Men's Bible Study bought for the playground. They playfully hopped to it!

One big meeting room now, the "Upper Room" will be more adequate for the various groups that use it.



One of numerous colorful murals in the classroom for the littlest ones.



The artist, Roxana!



5 of 5!!! Lisa's sister, Mindi, and her husband, Embe Kugler, embarked on a one-day visit in Guatemala! They disembarked their cruise ship after going through the Panama Canal and took the excursion to Antigua. With us as their tour guides, we got to see a good bit of the historical colonial town and have lunch together at a patio restaurant. The weather could not have been better to spend our short time together. It was their first time to Guatemala, so that completed 5 of 5 of Lisa's immediate feline family...her mother, herself and all three sisters!

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www.cten.org/artcamarena
800-872-5404



Online donations may be made by going to:

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EFT (Electronic Funds Transfers) are available by calling the finance department at CTEN at 800-872-5404

Checks should have our names written on the memo line.