

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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602-388-8584 (U.S. Line)

www.CamarenaGuatemala.com

www.cten.org/artcamarena

Camarena2.gt@gmail.com



We pray this finds you enjoying your summer activities. Some of our summer happenings here in Guatemala have been in the global news. Around noon on Sunday, June 3rd, one of our local volcanoes had a catastrophic explosion followed by a series of eruptions. Volcano of Fire (locally known as Volcán de Fuego), located 18 miles from us, changed the surrounding topography. The eruption included lahars, pyroclastic flows and clouds of volcanic ash. Surrounding towns, including ours, were covered in black ash. The sudden explosion left almost no evacuation time for those in the path of the lava. It caused over 120 confirmed deaths, including many children and some rescue workers. Reports show that 300 to 2000 people remain missing. Rescue efforts are still active at Ground Zero. Just this week, another ten victims from the same family were found and buried, joining another eight family members buried previously (pictured below). This was the deadliest eruption in Guatemala since 1929. The eruption produced an ash column over 9 miles in height. The pyroclastic flows caused many of the casualties and crop damage. Volcanic material buried several of the affected villages and cut off roadways.



Pictured above is a golf resort where we had done several of our Character Seminars, also where we celebrated two of our wedding anniversaries and where we frequented with out-of-country visitors. It was completely destroyed. Heavy rains and continued volcanic activity complicated rescue efforts. The volcanic material also destroyed an estimated 21,000 acres of corn, bean, and coffee crops. The US immediately responded with emergency aid helping to supply water, food and sanitary needs to the victims. They also air-vac'ed some of the burn victims to the US, mostly children.

Vice President Mike Pence and his wife came and personally visited one of the shelters a couple of weeks later. Last report shows over 3,500 people are still in shelters, some of them

being nothing more than tents. We are working locally with a family who lost their home and relocated to San Lucas. Someone gave them a place to put up a simple home of corrugated tin with a dirt floor. They cook on an outside fire. Though we are not actively involved in the front-line rescue efforts, the Lady's Bible Study has made two collections of food, diapers and sanitary goods that were taken in to the affected areas. One of the needy ladies in our weekly Bible Study raised funds and organized a group that made 1,000 tamales accompanied with a hot drink. The Mayor's office offered a truck for delivery. They went in to the affected area and fed rescue workers, police, military and homeless victims in the shel-



ters. On our home front, we spent days cleaning up the ash, which was no more than an inconvenience in comparison to the trauma in the villages most affected. We are not in any immediate danger, but our part of the country remains on **Red Alert**.

* **Volcan de Fuego** is part of what is called the "Ring of Fire". The Ring of Fire is a horseshoe-shaped zone that can be traced along the rim of the Pacific Ocean, where many of the world's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. The regions within this "ring" are seismically and volcanically active because they are located at the boundaries of several tectonic plates that are continually mashing and colliding.

* **Lahar** is a type of mudflow or debris flow composed of a slurry of pyroclastic material, rocky debris, and water. Lahars are extremely destructive: they can flow over 22 mph and be 460 ft deep, destroying any structures in their path.

* **Pyroclastic flow** is a fast-moving current of hot gas and volcanic matter that moves away from a volcano reaching speeds of up to 430 mph. The gases can reach temperatures of about 1,830 °F.

On the brighter side...in May, using reward miles coupled with our personal resources, we were able to take a much welcomed vacation in Scotland to celebrate our wedding anniversary. Just prior to leaving, we were able to attend a very special señorita's "quinceañera" (15th birthday) church service. Andrea has fully committed her life to the Lord and continues to amaze us with her youthful wisdom and creativity. We are very proud of her. Lisa also attended the civil wedding of one of the ladies in the Bible Study. The marriage act was performed at the Mayor's office in a nearby town. This ministry had made it possible for this very impoverished couple to get married. Their church wedding is planned for the end of July. Upon our return just prior to the volcanic eruption, we were also saddened by the news that a long-time friend's adult son had committed suicide here in Guatemala. It made the first weeks of June rather difficult, however, our spirits were brightened when the Lady's Bible Study threw a joyful Father's Day party for Art. Art had fun being silly when the ladies outfitted him with a bright blue cardboard tie, not knowing it would match what he was wearing.



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Ana & Jose with their 3 kids at their civil wedding.



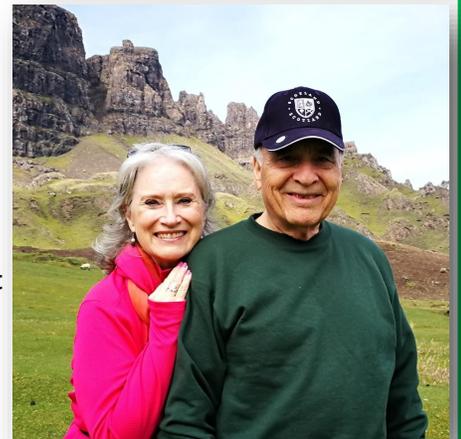
(left) Lisa signing as legal witness for their marriage.



(right) Art having fun at the Father's Day party.

Prayers and Praise

- We *praise* the Lord for the 22nd anniversary of Ambassadors for Jesus Christ in Guatemala. Though not always easy, it is a privilege to serve the Lord here.
- Please *pray* about participating in project needs we have within the community where we serve, including some volcanic eruption victims. If you would like to make a special donation, please indicate "project" with your donation.
- We are also in need of raising monthly ministry support to keep up with the cost of living, car repairs, need of a new laptop, etc. If you are currently a donor and able to increase your giving, that will help greatly. If you are not yet part of our ministry team and would like to join, see below.



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