

AMBASSADORS

for

JESUS CHRIST

in

Guatemala, Central America

APRIL 2011



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*"Now then we are **Ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech you by us; We pray you in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God.**" II Cor. 5:20*

Wow! Hard to believe the first quarter of 2011 has passed us by! How did that happen? We had the joy of taking our grandson to the beach in El Salvador to bring in 2011 with our good friends, the Ascencio family. Bret Jr. wiped the beach clean of all the shells. Of course, they came home with us! It was a great way to start a New Year!



A week prior, on Christmas Day, we hosted long-time friends, Dr. Doris and her son, Carlos Rendon along with his "prospective"

future wife, Erica Bush. They all stayed the night, then we took a trip to another part of the country for a couple of days together. Carlos sought Art's counsel on the matter. The result? Well, before Carlos left the country, he called to let us know he had proposed to Erica. They are to be wed on April 16th in Texas, where Carlos (Guatemalan) has been working for a few years. They both love the Lord and look forward to serving Him together. CONGRATULATIONS, Newly Weds!

In January, Lisa had an opportunity to make a "secret" trip to Arizona to spend time with her mom. In June, "L.J." is turning 90. She is doing well, though not without her challenges. Mother and daughter enjoyed quality time together whether it was walking Wal-Mart, going to doctor's appointments or just a nice lunch out.



"L.J." was rushed to ER twice during the time of Lisa's visit, but all seems to have stabilized. She is progressively getting better after fracturing her back. Lisa also worked in a quick trip to Atlanta for the Reliv National Conference.

CHARACTER INITIATIVE

The beginning of January, we were asked by one of the Credit Unions to be their guest speakers at a company-wide breakfast celebration. With great success, they had completed the four-year Character First character initiative with their employees. That initiative entailed supplying each of their employees with a 16 page bulletin once a month through which they studied each one of the 49 Character Qualities. The company formed an annual Character Committee involving various employees. Each supervisor focuses on teaching the monthly Character Quality by having weekly meetings with his or her staff. Once a month, they would have a company-wide meeting to recognize the anniversary of each employee completing another year of service by praising them. The employee's manager, who presents them with a nice certificate, praises them for a specific Character Quality they have demonstrated throughout the year. Most of these certificates are proudly displayed in the employees work area or in their home. During the monthly meeting, the management also introduces the Character Quality to be studied the following month. Credit Union "Union Popular", saw such great results, they also had a "kick off" for the next four years, using a new series of bulletins on the same Character Qualities. Due to the damage of the infrastructure from Hurricane Agatha last May, the 2 1/2 hour drive was rough going to their city of Tiquisate, located in the lowlands of Guatemala. However, it was worth the trouble. Using their parking garage for the event, a hundred and ten smiling faces warmly received us. Various managers and Board members shared testimonies of the initiative and expressed their appreciation. Along with our talk, we presented them with nice plaques of recognition. To our surprise, the Board of Directors and General Manager also presented us with a beautiful plaque of appreciation and a set of Cross pens each. This initiative started six years prior when the General Manager, Luis Salazar



(right), accompanied us to a Character First



Conference in Oklahoma City. He caught the vision at that conference and wanted this for his employees. During the breakfast in Tiquisate, Art demonstrated how he can *not* play the guitar (quite obvious to those present). He has never learned how. He explained, demonstrating good character is learned and takes practice, just like playing a guitar.



Presenting a plaque to the President of the Board of Directors

Character

In March, we gave presentations for another Credit Union at their company-wide meetings in yet another part of the country. With over 200 employees at two different locations two hours apart, we spoke on "Character" becoming part of their "Culture". They, too, recognized employees completing anywhere from

one to twenty-five years of service the two nights we were there.

Credit Union
Guayacán, Guastatoya & Jutiapa



As a result of our December reunion with some of the "boys" from our old Boy's Club, some of the "young men" decided they would like more discipleship. They, along with some of their friends, are now meeting with Art one night a month to dig deeper into the Word of God. Their goal is to have a more intimate relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ. The age range is from 20-30 years old. The meeting is designed to be a safe place where they can express their doubts, ask questions and be challenged. Please pray for Art as he leads this group and for the young men as they seek to grow Spiritually. On March 23rd, to Art's surprise, a few friends showed up to have breakfast with him for his birthday in the "Upper Room" (our ministry room). One 9-year-old girl whose legs are in a cast, was carried up the steps to join us. Delicious homemade tamales were served and prayers abounded, giving thanks for one more year of life the Lord has bestowed upon him.

(Some had already left before the picture was taken)



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The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to give a report to our friends, family, donors and mission sending organization, Ripe for Harvest, as to what God is doing through the AMBASSADORS FOR JESUS CHRIST Ministry in Guatemala. It gives brief insights to our ministry activities, but in reality, only shares the "tip of the iceberg." Often times, many days, weeks or months of work are put in to preparing for an event covered in the newsletter. Many more ministry activities take place on a daily basis. We often struggle with what to share and what to just keep between us and God. It is in no way intended to bring glory to us, but instead to show the greatness of Jesus Christ who sent us here.