

AMBASSADORS

for

JESUS CHRIST

in

Guatemala, Central America

AUGUST 2011

"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

Arthur & Lisa Camarena

APDO Postal 011

San Lucas, Sac.

Guatemala, Central America 03008

(Letters and SMALL packages only)

Tel: **602-388-8584** (VoiP)

 **Lisa Camarena (Stalcup)**

Camarena@afo.net

www.CamarenaGuatemala.com

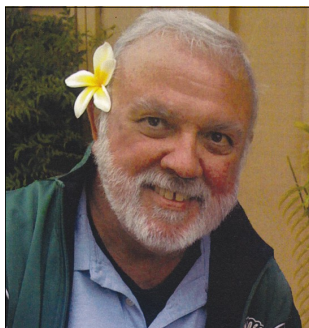
Summer is quickly sliding by and many will soon welcome the cooler weather in the U.S. This year's summer heat found us in Arizona for the first summer in well over a decade. We had forgotten just how hot, hot is! (Guatemala is in the middle of its cooler rainy season) We were delightfully warmed by the love of family and friends as we celebrated Lisa's mom's 90th and her sister, Deena's 65th birthdays Hawaiian style.

The family reunion gave us special time with several generations. We made a four-day jaunt to Sedona with "L.J.", soaking in the beauty and reminiscing old times. Unfortunately, only days following



our departure, "L.J." fell and broke her hip and shoulder. She survived a high-risk hip-replacement and is now in rehabilitation at a Christian facility. We appreciate your prayers for her. She is quite a woman!

We spent a week in Southern California before going to Arizona. We had the joy of speaking with the brethren at The Village Church in Irvine, Ca. (Below: Pastor Matt Kyser, following an outdoor baptism) After the church service, we spent the rest of the day with our dear friend, Ben Keenan, and his family. Ben had a passion for Guatemala. He brought various teams down through the years. He and his wife, Roberta, helped host our 10th Ministry Anniversary party 5 years ago. Ben had been ill



for quite some time and was in hospice care when we arrived. We brought a smile to his weary face with all the letters and cards we brought from his friends in Guatemala. Two weeks later we had the privilege of speaking at his Celebration of Life service. We already miss Ben's jokes and passion for sharing the Gospel message. While in Ca., we were able to enjoy a few days at "The Shepherd's Rest", a retreat center our friends, Michael & Judy Kane, built in the beautiful mountains of Big Bear. They built a chapel on the mountain that overlooks the lake. Also, for the first time in 15 years, we celebrated 4th of July in the U.S.A. Eight of the eleven brothers and sisters and their families gathered together at Art's sister's home for a BBQ. We were able to see the other three before and after that gathering. Though many unexpected things took place during this trip (including Art's Uncle passing away), we thoroughly enjoyed our time with family and friends.



Just days prior to our trip stateside, we were "Padrinos" in a wedding. In Guatemala, the civil wedding or marriage is separate from the religious wedding. This couple was legally married, but never had a church wedding. A few years ago, their marriage was a disaster. They broke up and each went their own ways. However, as they both came before the Lord and repented, God restored their marriage. They now serve in the church together along with their two children. As a witness to the community of

God's power, they planned a beautiful wedding for their 15th Wedding Anniversary. (Padrinos are similar to a Best Man and Matron of Honor. It also brings a responsibility to counsel them when needed)



(left) Esbin & Dora Macario (below) It is the tradition to release the rice & beans over the Bride & Groom following the ceremony. Bret Jr. (far rt.) was the ring-bearer.



There have been many fun happenings in the Lady's Bible Study group. In May, we had a Guatemalan friend, Betsy Spickman from Georgia, visit us to share her testimony with the ladies.

A Guatemalan pastor's daughter, married to a North American, she recently found herself suddenly widowed in her early 50's. The event drew her back to her roots to find her strength in the Lord, Jesus Christ. Just as she arrived, Lisa had accidentally ingested a chemical substance and was



being rushed off in an ambulance as the ladies were arriving. Betsy lead the Bible Study in prayer and shared her message. She then waited by a warm fire for our return from ER. Prayers were answered and Lisa soon recovered. The following week was a combined celebration of Mother's Day, a Baby Shower, and the birthday of the expectant mother's mother, Julia, whom we named "Queen for the Day". We were also celebrating our 15th Ministry Anniversary. Hard to believe we have been here that long. This journey started 17 years ago when the Lord clearly put a calling upon our lives. We fondly remember a song named, "Come Follow Me". That is all we have sought to do, to follow Jesus Christ and His will for our lives. There are many challenges living in a Third World Country. It is often very difficult being so far away from family & friends. The challenges, however, cause us to grow Spiritually and draw closer to the Lord. Despite it all, we have never been happier and felt more fulfilled. We are reminded of the scripture in Isaiah 41: 9-10. "I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, "You are my servant; I have chosen you and have not rejected you." We depend on the prayers of those who are called to pray for us. When Jesus read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah (Luke 4:18), He read, "The Spirit of the

Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor..." We seek to do the same through our various activities and discipleship classes.



The end of July, we had the joy of welcoming Cristina's new son into the world. After four daughters, they were thrilled to have a son. The ladies visited her taking food, singing hymns, sharing the Word of God and praying together. While in the not-so-easy-to-get-to area, we also visited another one of the ladies, a pastor's wife, who broke her foot and is homebound. They live in a make-shift room on the second floor of their little church amidst the construction, with their 5 children. Their walls are made of blankets. Irene was blessed by the visit. In August, the ladies threw a festive birthday party for Lisa. She enjoyed the homemade food and the warmth of their love. Several had made handcrafts as gifts. Others brought huge plantains and organic eggs from their chickens.

Through donations we receive designated for education, we sponsor some young men in their higher education. We recently had the joy of attending a special presentation of Joshua's (20) graduating class. He was asked to give the opening prayer. Joshua has been studying electronics for the last three years and will graduate in November. He and his classmates have often worked through the night in our ministry rooms to create robots, a miniature city that lights up and various other projects. We are proud of his accomplishments. Now he aspires to study at the university. These boys take very seriously their opportunity to break the cycle of poverty for their family. We are in great need of additional funds to help them continue their higher education. Please consider helping. Any amount is appreciated, whether it is a one-time gift or monthly support. Just let us know it is for education.



TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO:

"RIPE FOR HARVEST"

P. O. Box 487

Monument, Co. 80132

Attach a note to your check for "Camarena #41"

Thank you for your support!



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

RFH is now officially a member of the ECFA. ECFA is an accreditation agency dedicated to helping Christian ministries earn the public's trust through adherence to Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™. www.efca.org

Donations can be made by credit card. Please consider adding an additional 3% to cover the credit card processing fee. Go to www.RipeForHarvest.org and click on "donations" to sign up, selecting our name on the drop-down. Donations can be made electronically, as well. As a 501C entity, Ripe for Harvest keeps 12% of all donations for administrative expenses. Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Ripe For Harvest has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.