

# AMBASSADORS

for

# JESUS CHRIST

in

## Guatemala, Central America

December

2010

Quarterly Newsletter



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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*

*Winter greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! If your holiday season has been anything like ours, you have been bustling with more to do than time allows. We have been blessed with out of town visitors, the honor of hosting parties and simply taking in various Christmas holiday activities.*

In October, our home was warmed with the love of friends as they came to stay with us. Our dear friend, Alberto Ascencio from our neighboring country of El Salvador, stayed a couple of nights with us. He was here for a Central America tourism conference. The same week following his visit, we hosted long time friend, Jenni Ramsey, and her team of gals with Blessings Int., an international adoption agency. Jenni is the Missions Coordinator for The Village Church in Irvine, Ca. She and her family hosted us when we were last stateside. She has helped to send several teams down in

the past but had never been to Guatemala herself. We were delighted to have them. (Jenni, right front)



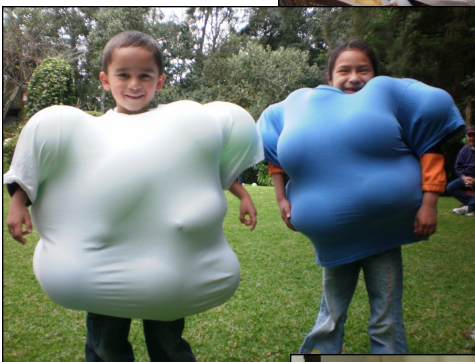
The end of October found us celebrating a very special graduation. Ten years ago, God brought us together with a precious family who had just survived a head-on car accident. All five members were injured, but the youngest daughter, Cristy, age 10, struggled for her life. The doctors said she would not likely survive the injuries sustained. We prayed with her and for her, believing in God's powers and praying for His mercy. Ten years later, with many challenges along the way, we had the great joy of joining them as they celebrated her graduation from High School. Cristy now aspires to go on to higher education. Her wheel chair does not impede her from baking and praising God for her life.



November found us celebrating our grandson's sixth birthday. He made it clear to us months prior that his birthday party would be at Grandma and Grandpa's! Since he comes to the weekly Children's Bible Study on Thursdays, the children in his age range were invited to the party. In honor of Lisa's mom who has clowned for decades, the birthday party theme was clowns. They had fun with many activities including



sack races and contests, making muscle-men with balloons. Of course, the highlight was the traditional piñata and filling their pockets with candies.



"L.J.", 89, clowning in the Rehab Center. She is out now and enjoying the Christmas holiday with Lisa's sister and family in California.





In November and December we spent special time with some of the "boys" from our old Boy's Club, Falcons of the Great King. Of course, they are all men now, some married with families. The Club existed for nearly 7 years but came to a close 7 years ago. We have been in regular contact with some of them, but had lost contact with others. We were able to reconnect with some we had not seen in a while. It was so fun to see where life had taken them and to reminisce our years together. They had fun looking at a photo album of pictures dating back to 1998. One of the boys took all the pictures and created a beautiful DVD for one of our gatherings. A great memory sake! One night we had them over and Lisa prepared homemade spaghetti for them. We all had a good laugh since one of the boys was a graduated chef working in an Italian restaurant. Another one has been our computer tech and yet another has given us invaluable counsel on our construction projects. The tables have turned. Now we are learning from them instead of them from us. We are so very proud of each one of them!



Left: Edwin (26) looking at the photo album, middle: Chef Antonio (25), top right, David (26), middle right, David, Art, Antonio, Rudy & Edwin chomping down after some serious croquet games. Well, maybe not so serious. We all had fun!

Our first Christmas visitor, Maria, walked a long distance to express her gratitude for the help of this ministry. Other Christmas activities included our bi-annual "Open House" for the professional community. Our Guatemalan friends came from near and far (3 hours away) to savor the delicious hors d'oeuvres Antonio put together and the fresh baked goods Lisa and Bret Jr. had prepared. Throughout the afternoon, people mingled inside and out, however, as the temperature dropped, we were all found together around the fireplace and Christmas tree. It was a great time of sharing. Curtis Sharp, a North American pastor in Costa Rica, joined the party and spent the night. He was here on annual ministry business. We were thrilled to have the brief time together. He already has his reservations for next year.



December 16th was the Christmas party and closing of the Lady's and Children's weekly Bible Study for 2010. We broke bread together delighting in the traditional tamales and hot fruit punch. We gave each one of the ladies a Christmas basket filled with goodies. Each child from infant to teen also received a small gift. The ladies blind-folded Lisa and surprised her with a large basket of fruit they all participated in creating. They said it was to represent the fruit of our labor here in Guatemala. We are humbled!



Lady's & Children's Bible Study 2010

**TAX DEDUCTION DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO:**

**"RIPE FOR HARVEST"**

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**Monument, Co. 80132**

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

*From our household to yours, we pray your Christmas and New Year season is filled with the Spirit of Jesus Christ. We pray you feel His presence and blessings.*

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!!*

*Art & Lisa*