

AMBASSADORS

for

JESUS CHRIST

in

Guatemala, Central America

DECEMBER 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

From our home to yours, we wish you a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!** If you are like us, we have already had a few Christmas events that have put us in the spirit of the season, always remembering that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season"! Our home is decorated and ready for the many December events, including a meeting with the General Managers of the Credit Unions, the Lady's Bible Study Christmas Party and many holiday "stop-bys". Here are but a few highlights of our recent months:

In November alone we had 14 house-guests coming from Georgia, Costa Rica, Tennessee, California and El Salvador. When the last of our visitors left, so did Art. He flew to Mexico City to attend an International Character Conference for Latin America. The first part of November brought us Betsy Sprickman (Georgia) and then Pastor Curtis Sharp (Costa Rica). Though their visits were short, we enjoyed every minute with them. The middle of November brought us a team of nine from both Tennessee and California. This team was through All-Blessings-West Coast. It was lead by our good friend and Missions Director at The Village Church of Irvine, Jenni Ramsey. It took a lot of preparation to house nine house-guests and schedule meals around a busy week-long itinerary, but it went well. God could not have brought together a finer group of people. In a very short time, we got to know each other and love each other. We cried together, we laughed together as God knit our hearts together. The day following their late night arrival, we had a big day. After briefly getting to know each other over breakfast, we were thrust into the day's events. It started with a tree-planting ceremony in honor of our dear friend and previous team-leader, Ben Keenan. Under the blue skies, the ladies from the Bible Study sang old traditional hymns to bless Roberta, Ben's wife, while the team members lent their loving support. Art shared a special message as we added the lovely Magnolia tree to our garden. In front of it is a beautiful plaque in memory of Ben, "A Faithful Servant of God".

Following the ceremony, we broke bread together in the "Upper Room." We had a time for the team members and the ladies to interact and share from their hearts. Because of the heart-aches and losses some our own team members had experienced, they could relate with the challenges and losses many of the Guatemalans go through on a regular basis. It was well described by one of the team members, "*The Guatemalan people captivated us with their joyful spirits and grateful hearts, despite their poverty levels and heart wrenching experiences of extreme tragedies.*" At the same time, the children were gathering together on the soccer field to



celebrate Bret Jr.'s birthday with an inflatable bouncer, pool of balls and various activities. The ladies soon joined the party of over 100 participants. The team not only made the whole event possible, but they

brought special goodie bags for approximately 60 children, as well as many gifts for the families we serve here. The piñata filled their pockets with candy and cake was enjoyed by all. It was a fun time as we used Bret's and Roberta's birthdays (same day) as an excuse to have a party! There was no language barrier. The love of Christ spoke volumes through their warm hugs and cheerful smiles. Amy, a photographer, specialized in taking family photos while her husband, Phil, played "juggler" with the balls. Jackson, Conner and Morgan did what kids do. They played with the kids and had a blast while the other team members found themselves embraced in a hug most of the time.



Phil & Amy May (far left & far right) & sons, Jackson & Conner, Lisa Bussard and daughter, Morgan, Jenni Ramsey, Roberta Keenan, Marlene Eckert (& Bret Jr.)



The next day, the team had their painting clothes on early and went to work painting a house on our property and our widow-sills. We spent the afternoon visiting some of the homes of the ladies in the weekly Bible Study, taking them much needed food items and other gifts. The Bible Study had been praying for 3 years for one husband to reconcile with the Lord. God touched his heart during our visit. The family rejoiced in tears. We prayed with each family and brought them words of encouragement.



God put on the heart of one team member to buy a stroller for one young mom of 5 who

has a faulty heart valve and is restricted from carrying her new baby. The team also worked with other ministries during their visit. *To hear from the team's perspective and see colorful pictures go to: www.AllBlessingsWest.blogspot.com and scroll down to Nov. 17th.* The same day the last team members departed, we also received our next house-guests who came from El Salvador to spend Thanksgiving with us. Patricia has a nutcracker collection and was blessed to have a live nutcracker at the Thanksgiving table.



Patricia, Alberto and Mariela Ascencio with Bret Jr.-The Nutcracker

Other recent activities: We started November off by hosting an Anger Resolution Seminar for the Board of Directors of one of the Credit Unions we work with. They drove 2 1/2 hours, arriving here at 6:55 a.m. for breakfast. They left at 6:30 p.m. It was intense, but powerful. The seminar is on DVD, so we just administrated it. Through their tears, various ones shared the impact it had on them.



The Lady's Bible Study had fun planning special children's activities for the annual "Day of the Child" (Oct. 1st), as well as a special luncheon honoring the Children's teacher along with a Bible

Study leader in mid October, going from one festivity to another!



PRAISE AND PRAYER

- We **praise** the Lord that He has made it possible for us to plan our next visit to Arizona in February of 2012.
- Our **prayer** need is for a vehicle while we are in Arizona for three weeks. We have always had the use of L.J.'s van, but that has now been sold.
- We ask you to **pray** about your support of this ministry, be it a one time gift or monthly support. Donations can be given in various fashions. Please go to www.RipeForHarvest.org for more specifics. (Click on "donations". Be sure and select our names, Camarena, Art & Lisa #041 on the drop-down.)
- We are also **praying** for more support for educational funds. We do sponsor various children and young adults through their education, some of which would not get educated otherwise. Some are in primary school while others are studying at the university. The new school year starts in January. If you would like to sponsor someone specifically, we can do that, as well. Please make known your desire and that the donation is for education.
- We **praise** God for the donors and friends that have made all the ministry activities in 2011 possible!
- Lastly, we **pray** you have a Christmas Season centered on your relationship with Jesus Christ. We would not be celebrating this season had He not come as the Christ-child, the Son of God. The very Son that sacrificed His life for our sins. May we enjoy the fun and laughter and the holiday activities with Him in the center of our thoughts and hearts. With that, we wish you a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!**

Art & Lisa Camarena

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!

www.RipeForHarvest.org

Josue (Joshua) Salazar (here with his parents) is one of our recent graduates from Electronics School. If it is financially possible, he has the desire to study at the university. He would also like to open his own electronics shop in his hometown of San Lucas. We are very proud of him. Often using our "Upper Room", he worked many nights all night then attended classes the following day. CONGRATULATIONS, Josue!

