

# AMBASSADORS

for

# JESUS CHRIST

in

## Guatemala, Central America

February 2013



**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**

*"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! It is hard to believe we are already more than six weeks into 2013. We pray you are off to a good year, as we are! Christmas seems so long ago, but that is where we left off in our last newsletter. We had a very enjoyable Christmas season here in Guatemala. We enjoyed time with our son and grandsons, various visitors, phone time with family and friends in the U.S. and, of course, the Bible Study Annual Christmas Party. It was surely a day of festivities with Christmas tamales, hot homemade fruit punch, lots of laughter and even tears. Thanks to a special donation, each of the ladies received a Christmas basket full of goodies.

In addition to all the Christmas fanfare, we were also celebrating the children's teacher's 10th Anniversary. "Hermana Gloria" has been coming up the mountain every Thursday from Guatemala City for the last 10 years volunteering her talents, teaching the children. Lisa dug out over 150 old and new pictures and created a video as our gift to her for serving in this ministry for the last decade. She and the children had been preparing the reenactment of The Christmas Story for this special event. They did a fabulous job, blessing the moms. After a day of enjoyment, delicious food and many activities, the children lined up to get a warm Christmas hug and gift from the teachers. *Jesus said, "Let the children come unto me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* Matthew 19:14



*Above: Hermana Gloria with the children (Bret Jr.-second from right-played Joseph)*

*Right: Hermana Gloria and Hermana Lisa with Cindy Jasmine. Cindy has been attending the Bible Study since before she was born.*



Most often at the end of the year, we have at least one child that can no longer attend the Children's Bible Study. The Children's Bible Study is for the children of the moms who come to the Lady's Bible Study, ages 4 through 13. (ages 0 to 3 are with their moms) Once they turn 13, we pray over them at the end of that year, give them a new Bible and say our sad "good-byes". Some of these kids, like Maco pictured here, have attended the weekly Bible Study since they were babies or toddlers. Maco's eyes were filled with tears (as were ours) as we brought this season of his life to a close. *More pictures can be viewed on Facebook-check our wall in December.*



It has been our desire to have a place for these young kids to go after they "graduate" from the Children's Bible Study. It is such a tender age when spiritual guidance is so important. For that reason, we kicked off 2013 inaugurating a new branch of the ministry. Lisa has mentored one of the ladies for several years who has a passion to work with and minister to young ladies. Eufemia is now meeting with four of the young ladies, ages 13 to 17, who have "graduated" from the Children's Bible Study. They meet every other Saturday. She is teaching them how to cook typical Guatemalan dishes and teaching them Biblical Principles. "Eufi", pictured here with 3 of the 4 girls, invited Lisa to the "Upper Room" to savor one of her favorite dishes, prepared by the girls. Their next project will be to embroider a tablecloth together. It has always been our intent to raise up the nationals. It brings joy to our hearts to help them initiate their own ministry



More pictures can be viewed on Facebook-check our wall in December.



outreaches. We are now praying for someone to minister to the boys. In January, a missionary friend of Lisa's, Dee Clark, came to work with the children while Hermana Gloria was in her homeland of Honduras. The kids had a great time making all the pieces of armor described in Ephesians 6:10-18. Before we knew it, in February, it was time for another party. Valentine's Day fell on Thursday. How lovely! One of the Bible Study leaders, Erica, brought a beautiful message about God's love (*"We love because He first loved us."* 1 John 4:19) and how we are to be imitators of God (*"Therefore be imitators of God as His beloved children"* Ephesians 5:1). Each of the ladies took home a heart balloon and hearts on a stick with scriptures about love.



The first part of the year has kept us very busy with school sponsorships. The school year in Guatemala starts in January and ends in October. Again, through generous donations, we are able to help numerous families buy their school supplies in January, have uniforms made and/or pay part of their monthly tuition for those that are going to the university. Art continues to have a weekly Men's Discipleship meeting and is also serving on the Board of Directors of the community in which we live. That alone means another one or two meetings a week. Praise God, after his installation as Vice President, for the first time, they start their meetings with prayer. That prayer has been ever so important lately. After sixteen and a half years in the same home, the widest of two dirt roads that come to our neighborhood was finally paved last month. That in and of itself is GREAT, however, it brought countless challenges to the Board of Directors when the city closed off the entrance to our neighborhood. The board members negotiated with a neighboring property owner to give us access through her foreclosed property, then we literally made a little dirt road crossing an empty lot so we (about 60 homes) could bring our cars home instead of parking them a couple of blocks away. The construction lasted about a month, but when it was finished, the new road was about a foot lower than our concrete entrance. The entrance had to be torn up and re-cemented. Never a dull moment...such is the price of progress.

### PRAISE AND PRAYER

- Lisa went through some extensive medical tests recently with the threat of a serious problem. We **praise** God that she was given a clean bill of health! She is feeling great! The unexpected medical costs were not welcomed, but we are thankful for the results.
- Someone once said to us, "If you don't let us know your needs, how can we help and participate in your ministry?" It is amazing to think we have been here nearly 17 years now. We continue to use many items we brought down with us when we moved here. But we have come to realize "things" are not meant to last forever. Many of those items have reached their life limit. As a result we are having to replace various appliances and household items. We most often look for good used ones. We are in the process of necessary home improvement projects, as well. We **praise** God and are grateful for the funds we receive to meet the needs of the impoverished around us, but we are also in need in order to maintain our home and the ministry here. Would you please **pray** about becoming one of our ministry partners, either by monthly support or a one-time donation?
- One of our many needs are a couple of newer **laptops**. If you have one you are not using and would like to donate, please let us know. Our contact information is on page one. We can arrange to get it down here. If you would like to donate toward one, please make a note of that when you make your contribution.
- **Car Fund:** Again, the years have gone by and the need is here once again. In 2007, someone generously donated a 1998 vehicle to us while we were in the states. We drove it down here. She is affectionately called "Daisy" and is a "people mover" (seats 7). She has served us well. However, she is 15 years old and it is time to replace her. In addition to our SUV, we often need a vehicle to transport people here locally, along with U.S. teams and visitors. Of course, we are looking for the most recent model possible and have some specifications that meet our current needs. If you so desire, you can make a tax-deductible donation by credit card to our car fund by going to [www.RipeForHarvest.org](http://www.RipeForHarvest.org), click on "donate" then click on "donate via C.C." (at the bottom), click on "give now". On the drop-down, look for "Camarena Project Fund #041B" or checks may be mailed to RFH specified for Camarena #041B.

**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](http://www.RipeForHarvest.org)**

As we shift from celebrating the Lord's birth to celebrating the Lord's death and resurrection, may our hearts be centered on the life of Jesus Christ, our Savior. We wish you an early

**HAPPY EASTER!!!!!! ..... He has risen!**

