

AMBASSADORS

for

JESUS CHRIST

in

Guatemala, Central America

JULY 2012

*"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*

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We hope this finds you enjoying your summer activities and vacations. Even though we are not south of the equator, the six month rainy season here is called "winter", May through October. Generally, we enjoy a beautiful spring day with blue skies until the rain arrives. It may last an hour or it may last the rest of the day and night. It may be a light rain or a torrential downpour. It keeps the country-side green and the vegetation lush.

Ministry Activities

In addition to the weekly Bible Studies, the ladies and children enjoy gathering for various activities. In May, Mother's Day, always the 10th of May, fell on Thursday, the day of our weekly Bible Study. Weeks of planning framed this day with delicious typical food, fabulous fun and laughter, along with tears of joy and sadness. The children prepared some special acts to bless their mothers and grandmothers. The ladies cackled as they played fun games and participated in silly competitions. They broke up into teams of two and raced to see what "baby" (played by a mother) could drink her baby bottle (bottled water) first! The winner won a prize. Another competition was to see which mom could eat a large banana the fastest. Lisa was blessed with various bouquets of flowers that day. Most of them consider her their "spiritual mother" as she teaches them how to have a personal intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Art shared a short message and handed out a long stem red rose to each one of the ladies.

All the moms felt honored that day!



From time to time, the ladies and children dedicate a time after the weekly Bible Study to visit the sick or home-bound. Such was the case when they gathered together to pray for Maria and her husband. Maria was invited to the Bible Study by a neighbor some 13 years ago. It was on her first visit that she came to know Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. A little girl was added to their six boys seven years ago. Recently, her husband was inebriated while crossing the highway that runs through San Lucas. He and another man were hit by a car. They survived, but sustained serious injuries. The ladies gathered some food, brought them lots of words of encouragement, hugs and prayers. An already difficult living situation was made even more difficult. We continue to pray for her husband's salvation and for their needs as a family.



Art continues to disciple men various evenings of the week. Some are being individually mentored while others gather as a group. Art has a heart to see men become all God created them to be, according to the Word of God. Art, also, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of our gated community. Anyone that visited us in the early years knows we lived out in the middle of nowhere. Little by little, the land around us was sold and we began to have neighbors, then it became a gated community. Art is serving now as V.P. Some meetings are held in our home while others are at neighbor's homes.

Character Initiatives

The Character First Initiatives have kept us rather busy. In May, one of the Credit Unions we work with sent their Board of Directors to us for a Character Presentation. The Credit Union, located 3 hours from us, had a change-over in higher management and a new Board of Directors. It was an informal meeting in our Upper Room where they could ask questions and make plans for future growth in the Character Development. We enjoyed getting to know each other



over lunch in our dining room. Our bi-monthly meetings with the General Managers have been fruitful. We are in the planning stages of having our first National Character Conference in Guatemala later this year. Everyone involved with the planning of this event seem to be quite excited about it, as are we. Following our return from a trip to Costa Rica, we hosted Francisco Cabrera, the Director of Character First (Primero Carácter) in Mexico. He brought us some Spanish materials we needed. We spent the better part of three days discussing what they are doing in Mexico and what we are doing in Guatemala. Francisco also brought some new materials and trained us on how to most effectively use them. We invited Luis Salazar (General Manager of one of the Credit Unions) to join us for the meeting one morning, followed by lunch. He met Francisco in Mexico recently when he attended some Character First training. Luis captured the character vision over six years ago when he accompanied us to a Character Cities Conference in Oklahoma City. He has been with the Credit Union for 33 years. We enjoy a good working relationship.

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After several months of meetings and planning, the day finally arrived to do a Character Kick-off for a private school. The directors of the school saw the value in our training and materials and wanted them for their faculty. They gathered about thirty of their primary grade school teachers and office staff and had a teacher's retreat with us as the guest speakers. We explained what character is and the importance of developing good character both on and off the job. The teachers broke up into groups to work on a project together. One teacher was then elected to share their findings. The Character Initiative was well received. We look forward to working with this school over the coming months and years.



PRAISE AND PRAYER

- We **praise** the Lord for the opportunity to go hike the coastal jungle mountains of Costa Rica recently, celebrating our Wedding Anniversary. **Praise God**, most of the trip was covered by miles we had accumulated. We are grateful to be in good health and even able to do the strenuous hiking. Following our coastal adventures that included para-sailing, we also enjoyed some days of rest on an active volcano at a missionary's retreat home. We came back refreshed and ready to go again. Pictures of the trip can be viewed on Facebook under photos.
- We **praise** the Lord that Lisa's mom, "L.J." is stable and doing well. She recently celebrated her 91st birthday. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Mom!
- Everyone has been affected by the economic crisis and we are no exception. We are in need of ministry support not only for our own expenses, but to also help meet the many needs around us. Recently, someone attempted to steal our car. **Praise God** they were not successful, but they did damage the car in the process. If through **prayer**, you would like to join our ministry team, we invite you to go to www.RipeForHarvest.org to see the many ways you can give. Click on "donations" and select our name on the drop down. Donations can be made by check, electronic deposit or credit card. They can be monthly, annually or a one time gift. All is appreciated.
- At the same time, we would like to **thank** those of you that have been supporting this ministry throughout the years in various ways. We are a team and could not be here doing what God has us doing without you. Your part is every bit as important as ours. Our desire, like yours, is that God would have the glory. It is a privilege to serve Him and to produce fruit for the Kingdom.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO:

"RIPE FOR HARVEST"

P. O. BOX 487

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ATTACH A NOTE TO YOUR CHECK FOR "CAMARENA #41"

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Check out our picture gallery under "Updates" by going to: www.CamarenaGuatemala.com.

You can also check out our new character website at: www.CharacterParaTodos.com. (if you don't understand Spanish, click on the picture gallery on the "Fotos de Seminarios" tab)

You can find us on Facebook under Lisa's name: Lisa Camarena (Stalcup)

