

AMBASSADORS

for

JESUS CHRIST

in

Guatemala, Central America

June 2010

*"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)

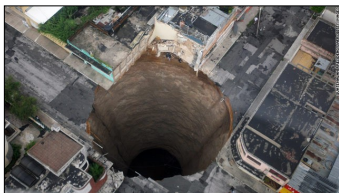
Tel: 602-388-8584 (VoiP)
(Ariz. phone number that connects to us in Guatemala)

Camarena@afo.net

www.CamarenaGuatemala.com

Mid year greetings from Guatemala! As we see many natural disasters happening throughout the world, Guatemala has had its share already this year. Within a very short period of time we have experienced numerous strong tremors, a major volcanic eruption followed by a hurricane that hit land as Tropical Storm Agatha. Then for the first time in our 14 years here, a small tornado hit down in San Lucas, where we live. It has been a rather turbulent time. One has to ask, "What is God speaking through this?" Volcano Pacaya, about 10 miles from us, left Guatemala City covered by 3 inches of ash on May 29th. Guatemala soon after declared a State of Emergency. The International Airport was closed for the following days. A few people were killed by the spewing lava including an on-the-scene reporter for a local news station. On May 31st, only two days later, Tropical Storm Agatha slammed into Guatemala and swept across the country taking hundreds of lives with it. Entire families were buried alive by mud slides, carried off by rivers or simply left homeless. Around 100,000 people were in make-shift shelters while some of their family members remained on the "missing" list. Devastation is felt throughout the country where at least 20 bridges washed away, cutting entire towns and villages off from civilization and much needed food and water. During the Agatha storm, a "sinkhole" 100 ft. deep and 66 ft. wide in the middle of Guatemala City consumed a 3 story building. Sixty employees of that building had just left an hour before it disappeared into the earth. Many tragic stories faced us day after day. We had our own damage to deal with (ash in our water tank, trees and branches blown down by either Agatha or the tornado), but it was minimal in comparison. We were without electricity for 45 hours during Agatha and another 4-5 hours from the tornado. We are very grateful for the Lord's protection. It is predicted it will take 5 years to rebuild from the destruction of Agatha. This is the third major tropical storm devastation we have lived through here in Guatemala. The first being Hurricane Mitch in 1997, then Hurricane Stan in 2007 and now Agatha. Meanwhile, the rainy season is just beginning. We ask for your prayers to include Guatemala as it recovers from this disaster. **See page 2 on how you can give to the Guatemala Relief Fund.**

Below: Huge Guatemala sinkhole, Volcano Pacaya, one of 32 volcanoes in Guatemala



Experts say leakage in the sewer system may be the root cause of the sinkhole



Above: Neighbors work together to clean up the mess



On the brighter side, Art celebrated a significant birthday both in Guatemala and in the states. On his birthday, he was woken up to a trumpet played by one of the young men that was part of the boy's club we had for 8 years. Our ministry sponsored David through his education and now he is a teacher in a Christian school and leads the school band. After only having been home 6 weeks for Lisa and 9 weeks for Art from our previous stateside visit, we were notified that Art's brother, Ross, had passed away.



Left: David with his trumpet at day-break on March 23rd



Middle: At the cemetery in Porterville, Ca. Right: Art with his four sisters, Lupe, Alice, Rachel & Gloria



He was the first of the 12 to go, so it was rather traumatic for the family. God intervened by bringing people by our side making it possible for us to fly out within a few days, arriving just in time for the funeral. 12 doves were released at the cemetery representing the 12 brothers and sisters. We do miss Brother Ross. While in California, Art had minor surgery. Following the surgery, we had a scare as to whether Art had cancer or not. It was a test of our faith for the two days we waited for the test results. Praise God everything came out clean! As a matter of fact, his various tests, including the EKG stress test, came out above average. They described him as a "healthy, well nourished male." Obviously, we were greatly relieved and went on to enjoy time with the family. In the short time we were home between stateside trips, we did do a one-day Character Seminar for a large Christian orphanage. We had about 45 administrative staff and teachers in attendance.



Art & Lisa w/ the director of Casa Bernabé Orphanage.





Left: Erika's new born son

Right: Susi's newborn son

Below: Tonita's new born son

Left: Our grandson, Bret Jr. age 5 1/2

Right: Our grandson, Diego, almost 2

Left: Gabby's first birthday w/ her mom, Carolina

Right: Euty's newest grand-daughter

← Upon arrival back in Guatemala, our feet hit the ground running. We had left several things pending. The week of our arrival home we had a Mother's Day party in the Lady's Bible Study. We also had a Baby Shower the following week. Lisa has been blessed with the opportunity to do a lot of baby-hugging. Three baby boys were born in the same week. Lisa had the privilege of praying a blessing over each one. She also attended little Gabby's first birthday party. Gabby's father was tragically killed when her mother was only 3 months pregnant. Of course, we enjoy time with our 2 grandsons, Bret & Diego, as well. Recently, Lisa found herself visiting someone in the men's prison, accompanying one of the ladies in the Bible Study. It was an uncomfortable and somewhat dangerous situation. The prisons here are literally run by the gang members themselves. It was a little unnerving. In the future, she'd rather stick to baby-hugging!

We continue to have regular meetings with the General → Managers of various Credit Unions around the country that have embraced the Character First Initiative for their employees. We normally have those meetings in our home. As a result of a recent acquaintance with the General Manager of a new golf resort, he invited us to have our next meeting at their facility. The resort is set amongst various volcanoes with spectacular views. The June meeting was about a week after Tropical Storm Agatha hit, greatly damaging the infrastructure of the "interior". We all had to go around numerous mudslides to get there. After our meeting in their formal conference room, we took a tour of the facility then enjoyed lunch out on the veranda. The tour required the General Managers to drive their own golf carts, which they had never done before. They had fun! They are each seeing great results with the Character Initiative.



In other news, Lisa's 88 year old mother rode 88 miles in a side-car on a Harley Davidson with her son-in-law, Embe, on their way to Washington D.C. As a result of her faithful support and prayers for our American soldiers, she had been invited to V.I.P. seating at the Vietnam Wall Ceremony Memorial Day weekend. They were part of an annual motorcycle group of hundreds of bikers that ride together from California to the Vietnam Wall. "L.J." became known by the group as "Mom" or "Texas Rose" (being that she is from Texas). She rode the rest of the way in her daughter, Mindi's, van. We were proud to have her represent our family to express our gratitude to all of our valiant soldiers.

Way to go, Mom! We're ever so proud of you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, now 89!!!

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation specifically to the Guatemala Relief Fund, you may donate directly by going to:

www.agatharelieff.iglesiadelcaminogt.com

The funds will be used for food, water, clothing, beds, housing materials, etc.

TAX DEDUCTION DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO:

"RIPE FOR HARVEST"

P. O. Box 487

Monument, Co. 80132

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

We send out occasional updates via e-mail. If you are not on e-mail with us and would like to be, please pop us a quick e-mail with the subject heading: ADD ME.

Electronic Contributions can be made to this ministry by going to www.RipeForHarvest.org and clicking on "Donations". Be sure to indicate it is for Camarena #41.