

# AMBASSADORS

for

# JESUS CHRIST

in

## Guatemala, Central America

March 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*

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## HAPPY EASTER

2010 is going past us at full steam, isn't it?! It is hard to believe we are already celebrating Easter! We just celebrated Jesus' birth and now we are celebrating His death and resurrection. It seems strange to celebrate a death, yet we know it was His death that cleansed us of our sins and gave us Eternal Life in the Kingdom. Glory to God!

## STATESIDE VISIT

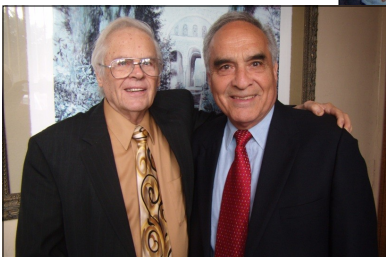
It would be impossible to share all the experiences of our recent trip stateside. It would also be impossible to publicly thank all of those who made it the wonderful trip it was. Please just know we appreciate your part. We started out in Southern California where we spent a week with dear friends in the Newport Beach and Irvine area, which included a quick trip up to Big Bear where we played in the snow. We enjoyed being with our Village Church/Irvine Brethren on Sunday. We then headed to Central-California where we spent about 12 days with Art's family. We gathered together on the 19th to celebrate the Christmas holiday with 11 of the 12 brothers and sisters and their families. (We spent time with the 12th one in Az.) It is an annual event we only get to attend every 2-3 years. It is always special being with Art's family. We were invited to speak with the senior class at Porterville Nazarene Church by Art's grade school coach, Dick



*At the Kane's Shepherd's Rest Retreat Center (Big Bear) with Judy Kane*



Schlagel. We also enjoyed a post 50-year high school reunion with those still in Porterville. We missed the actual reunion in October.



From there we flew to Arizona the week of Christmas and dove right into the many planned activities with Lisa's family. We started with the Zoo-Lights the first night, a BBQ the following day, then our bi-annual Christmas Eve gathering, followed by Christmas dinner on Christmas Day. "L.J.", Lisa's mother, traditionally dresses as Mrs. Clause, one of her many personalities. She brings a smile with joy to all who cross her path in any season! Lisa, with the help of her sisters, had prepared a 17 minute video on "The Life of "L.J." which we presented to her on Christmas Eve.

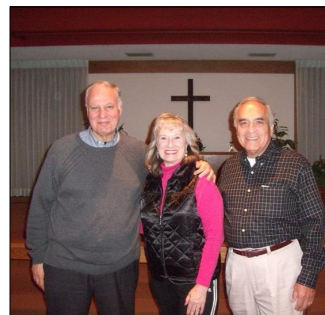


*Above: Mrs. Clause with great-grandsons Josh & Hunter.*



*Left: Lisa with her mother and sisters, Melanie, Mindi & Deena*

Following our time with family, we also had fun getting together with our cherished friends and with our granddaughter, Sidney. We spoke in various churches, sharing what God is doing here in Guatemala through this ministry. We reconnected in a special way with our home church, Calvary Church of the Valley in Paradise Valley. They blessed us with an apartment for 2 1/2 weeks on the church grounds during our visit. Art returned to Guatemala January 21st while Lisa spent another 3 weeks with her mom, taking in the National Reliv Conference the first part of February. Lisa returned home Feb. 11th. The Lord showed us favor throughout our travels.



*Above: Pastor Bill Mautino, Calvary Church of the Valley*



*Right: We had a fun time with our granddaughter, Sidney (8)*

No matter how much time we are stateside, it is never enough time to spend with our family and friends, whom we miss from afar. We are grateful for the time we did have together, though, and are sorry for the ones we missed. It was a special bonus to have time with Daniel Keats whom Lisa home-schooled from pre-kinder to first grade and is now a graduate of A.S.U. She also delighted in having lunch with Ashley and her new husband, Mark. Ashley was one of our foster-children in Scottsdale when she was three years old. Seems like everyone is getting older except us! Phew! It was a joy to see the fruit of our labor from the days before we were even called out to the mission field in Guatemala. After being gone 2 1/2 months, Lisa was anxious to return to her husband and the ministry.



*Above: Ashley (Graber) Grapp*

*Left: Dan Keats*

The day before we left on our trip stateside, we had the annual Christmas Party for the Lady's and Children's Bible Study. The children prepared a drama reenacting



Joseph, Mary, baby Jesus and the angels. They were precious as they sang Christmas carols for the moms outdoors. The ladies continued to have prayer meetings the rest

of December. They started the Bible Study up again the first week of January. When Lisa returned home, they were finishing their study on "Flexibility". Her first week back, they threw a Welcome Home party combined with a Valentines Day party. Lisa was happy to be with them again. The needs are great within this group. They live hard lives as they battle their poverty and all the challenges that brings. We were glad our property could be used for a wedding reception for one of their adult children while we were gone.

### PRAISE AND PRAYER

- We praise the Lord for such a wonderful trip stateside, for all the family and friends we were able to see and for the many blessings we received throughout our journey. We cherish each relationship, holding it dearly in our hearts.
- We praise the Lord for new members to our Ambassadors for Jesus Christ support team. Welcome aboard!
- We ask you to pray for our safety at all times. We've had some pretty strong tremors in Guatemala since we've been home. Of course, our hearts and prayers go out to those suffering the aftermaths of the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. We count it a privilege to be part of an organization (Reliv International) who has 3 feeding centers that were already established in Haiti. They sent an additional cargo of nearly half a million dollars of nutrients into Haiti following the earthquake. Reliv Int. feeds over 42,000 under-nourished children & adults every day in 15 different countries around the world. For more information including a 4 minute video, go to [www.Camarena.Reliv.com](http://www.Camarena.Reliv.com) and click on "mission".

*"As it was written, The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke 24:46-47*

**HAPPY EASTER....CHRIST HAS RISEN!!!!**

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