

AMBASSADORS for JESUS CHRIST in

Guatemala, Central America

October 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 pray you are enjoying cooler weather as we enter the fall season. For us, it means the end of the 6 month rainy season. We look forward to the holidays the fall and winter seasons bring us.

Rt.— General Manager, Luis Salazar, attended a Character First Conference with us in Oklahoma in 2005.

CHARACTER CONFERENCE IN GUATEMALA

This last quarter found us extremely busy preparing and hosting the first CHARACTER FIRST CONFERENCE in Guatemala. For weeks we battled with deadlines, creating new brochures, folders, banners and making hotel arrangements in preparation for the big event. We had meetings with the General Managers of the Credit Unions, both individually and as a group. Though it had been in the planning stages for the last year, most of the work was done in the last weeks prior to the event. The four Credit Unions we have been working with over the last 3 to 7 years, along with ourselves, sponsored the event. The idea was birthed about a year ago by the General Managers themselves. We brought John Burnett, Director of the central region of the U.S., from the home office of Character First located in Oklahoma City to Guatemala as the primary guest speaker. John, and his wife, Cheryl, arrived October 1st and spent a week with us. The conference was held at the Grand Tikal Futura Hotel in Guatemala City on Wednesday, October 3rd. Though this conference was quite an undertaking, it was well worth it. The atten-



*The Grand Tikal Futura Hotel
Rt.—The employees of one Credit Union demonstrated the character quality of "compassion" by reaching out to the victims of a natural disaster in their region.*



*Banner:
"Transforming
Lives with Good
Character...
Character for
Everyone"
Art, Lisa, the four
General Managers
and guest speaker,
John Burnett.*



The majority of the attendees came from the "interior" and had a 3 hour drive, arriving by 8:30 a.m.



dees were by invitation only. Though some of the attendees were employees or management of the Credit Unions, there were numerous first-time guests who were hearing about the Character Initiative for the first time. Three of the General Managers shared the testimony of their Credit Union and the success of the Character Initiative. Incredible videos were developed by the Credit Unions to show how their employees are walking out the character qualities they are learning. Lisa was asked to be the M.C. and Art spoke on the importance of balancing ability with good character. With all his enthusiasm, John held the audience captive as he spoke with passion through his interpreter, Rolando. They were quite the team. Two cable stations filmed the conference and interviewed three of us after-



wards. There was also coverage in one of the national newspapers. Following the four hour conference, everyone was invited to a delicious meal in another ballroom. After lunch, we went on to have a private meeting with the key management of

the Credit Unions. John fielded questions and we discussed different ideas. On Friday, John spoke on how our character (either good or bad character) affects relationships. John shared that his family consisting of eight children is his "Character School". This more intimate meeting was held at a beautiful golf resort outside of Antigua. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful views of the golf course surrounded by volcanoes, one of which erupted while we were enjoying our



morning coffee. Following the presentation, we once again savored a delicious meal together and nurtured relationships. Again, the attendees came from hours away and were blessed by what they heard. What time we were not in meetings or preparing for them, we did a lot of sight-seeing with the Burnetts. They marveled at the beauty of Guatemala as we toured some of the ruins in the famous colonial town of Antigua. They enjoyed seeing historical sites and shopping in markets throughout the country. A boat ride at Lake Atitlán took us to four different villages with four different cultures and crafts.



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This Pastor and his wife were delighted with the presentation. He serves on the Board of Directors of one of the Credit Unions.

OTHER MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

While a lot of energy went into the Character Conference, we continued to carry-on our weekly local ministry. Art meets with the men and Lisa meets with the women. We also go together to make home visits to pray for the sick and help meet some of their basic needs. The Lady's and Children's Bible Study have had numerous special activities over the recent months, only one of which was the "Day of the Child". The ladies took charge and planned various games and fun activities on the soccer field. Coming to the close of the school year in Guatemala, Lisa recognized the honor students. We were proud to have 13 honor students amongst the children in the Bible Study and those who grew up in the Bible Study, but are too old to attend now.



Our grandson, Bret, was amongst them. Once again, we enjoyed delicious food and a huge cake. The following week, John & Cheryl Burnett visited the Bible Study. Each of the ladies shared with them how the Character Initiative has helped change their lives as they study the roots of each character quality in the Bible.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

- We *praise* the Lord for His grace and mercy as we took on the challenge of this conference. We had many obstacles to overcome. We know God uses those challenges to develop our own character. We could see the move of His mighty hand.
- We are not only in need of raising our monthly support, but we also have the desire to extend our ministry. There is a huge need to develop another Boy's Club, much like the one we had for 7 years, as well as, an outreach to the young ladies. Our Children's Bible Study is designed for children 4 to 13. Our facility size is limited and there is only one teacher. The year they turn 13 is their last year. At the end of the year, we bless them and send them on their way, though they would like to continue. Some come back to visit and help us with special activities. If you, as an individual, or your church would be interested in supporting one of the clubs, boys ages 7 to 12, boys ages 13 to 18 or the Girl's Discipleship, please let us know. Guatemalans, that are the fruit of this ministry over the years, are willing to help us. It has always been our desire to multiply, not to create dependency on us. Please *pray* about what role God might have you play to help change these precious lives.

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More pictures are posted on Facebook under Lisa's name: Lisa Camarena (Stalcup)

