

AMBASSADORS

for

JESUS CHRIST

in

Guatemala, Central America

April 2009

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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CHARACTER KICK-OFFS

It seems so long ago now to be talking about "the first of the year". Being this is our first quarterly newsletter in 2009, however, we shall do just that.

We started out the year with a bang with friends on the white beaches of El Salvador. We went prepared to do two speaking engagements on the return trip home. The three Credit Unions we did the 2-day Character Seminars for in Nov. '08 asked us to do a presentation at their company-wide "Character Kick-off". They were announcing the four year Character Initiative they have embraced to teach and train their employees to be employees of good character. The first Credit Union divided their 220 employees into two groups, located two hours apart. Just after crossing back over into Guatemala the first week in January, we stopped in Jutiapa where we made a presentation to the first group. We then traveled to another city, Guastatoya, to make the same presentation at their home offices. We were only home a week when we packed up again and headed to the opposite end of the country to do two more "kick-offs" in Salcajá and Sololá. At each of the company gatherings we had a private one-hour session with all the supervisors before or following the Character presentation. These presentations are re-enforced by monthly 16-page bulletins on each of the 49 character qualities, so the quality can be studied in depth. Our objective is to train up the leadership to carry on the initiative.



PENITENTIARY SYSTEM

After our travels in December and January, staying in seven hotels in less than a month, we settled-in for a short time at home before Lisa made a five day trip to a Reliv National Conference in Fort Worth,



Texas the middle of February. Art spent those same days in Mexico City at the Character First offices for Latin America. Lisa's flight was routed through Mexico so we were able to have a four hour meeting with the Character First Director of Mexico at the airport prior to flying home together. They were quick trips, but we both came back more knowledgeable. ~ Art began meeting with officials from the National Police Force and the National Penitentiary System. He had not yet met the new Director of the Penitentiary System (pictured above). He seemed to take a liking to Art and was very impressed with the seminars we had already done for the prison system's employees, not to mention three days in two of the prisons last year. Plans were being made to do some more work for them in the future. However, the end of February there was a tragic shooting at the Penitentiary System's downtown offices. The Director's personal body guard was killed. Another guard survived after being shot four times. Employee morale was down so the Director asked us to come in right away and do some Character talks with the employees the early part of March. He then sent a driver the following week to take us to a military base three hours away to spend two days with 244 graduating prison guard cadets, uniformed and ready to graduate the following week. At his command, they canceled the scheduled curriculum for those days at the last minute. He felt what we had to share with them was more important. We shared Biblical principles through portions of the Basic Seminar (IBLP) and also gave them a two hour presentation on Character each day. It was a rather stressful two weeks, at the same time, it was fruitful. *(unfortunately, our pictures of that event were lost).*

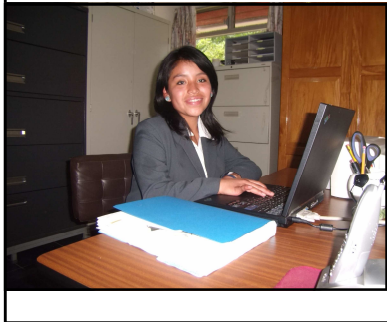


Character presentations for the employees of the National Penitentiary System—three different presentations in two days at two different locations.

Thanks to some specific donations for prison ministry, we were able to respond to an urgent call at a critical time.



Please welcome Elizabeth to our ministry team! Elizabeth is a student at a Christian private school in San Lucas. She is 18 and will be graduating this year as a bi-lingual secretary. Elizabeth, part of a Mayan indigenous family, buses in each day from a town a half hour away. She is working with us 3 afternoons a week and has already been a tremendous help getting those business letter and proposals typed and organizing the hundreds and hundreds of character bulletins, DVD's and other materials. Our home contains 3 offices, Art's office, Lisa's office and the Character office. We are proud to have her as part of our ministry team.



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Other ministry activities continue in the midst of our busy schedule. Lisa has trained up the ladies in the Bible Study to continue each Thursday with or without her. It brings her great joy to see them flourish in their spiritual lives and go on to be teachers themselves. The ladies group also enjoyed a special Valentine's Day activity and put on a scrumptious breakfast for Art on his birthday in March.

We are blessed with many announced and unannounced visits when we are home. One such visit was long time friends, Leo & Sandra. They brought an Aunt that accepted the Lord in our home last July after having been involved in witchcraft for many years. Recently she, her daughter and grandkids came from a village many hours away carrying amongst other heavy things; fresh bananas, mangos and a huge papaya to give us from their property to express their gratitude. They journeyed long hours on the "chicken bus" to be in San Lucas only 48 hours, during which time they visited us. It was a joy to see the "fruit" of our labor.

(below: Lisa-left with the daughter, Aunt-center, Sandra & Leo-right. The kids include little Lisa-right and our grandson, Bret Jr.- front center.)



(Bret Sr., Bret Jr. and Art on his birthday)

You no longer have to pay high prices at Starbucks to savor our aromatic "Antigua" Guatemala coffee. In collaboration with His House Ministries, we are now making available that same rich high-quality coffee in your own home. A portion of each order also goes to help support our ministry here in Guatemala. To order, simply go to www.hishousecoffee.com/ambassadors-for-jesus-christ.php and have it delivered to your home in 3-7 days. This is organically grown high altitude Arabic coffee grown in nearby Antigua, Guatemala. It is medium roasted to bring out the best qualities, known for its velvety structure, smoky aroma and lingering fruitiness. The coffee is packaged still hot in bags with a one way valve to retain its freshness-then wrapped in "typical Mayan fabric". Savor it yourself or buy it as a gift. For additional information on the coffee go to www.hishousecoffee.com or see our new page at www.CamarenaGuatemala.com click on "Antigua coffee".



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We pray each of our hearts be set upon our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, throughout this Easter season. Jesus suffered a cruel death on the cross so that we may have life, taking on the sins of the world. On the third day, He rose again in fulfillment of the scriptures. That means we serve a Living God! May we never cease to be grateful for what He did on our behalf. "And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again... We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." II Corinthians 5:15, 20-21

Christ has risen!

HAPPY EASTER,

Art & Lisa Camarena