

Martinez Mail

August, September, October 2011



Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. - Mat 24:44

Could this scripture speak any more clearly about being prepared? The summer teams have all returned to their homes. It's time to change hats again and begin preparing for the fall semester at Living Water Teaching /Christian Academy (LWT/CA). Students are returning from their vacation for school in just a few days. For Robin and other missionaries serving in the LWT/CA, it is not just pencils, paper, and playground, it is spiritual preparation. Each must look within and evaluate the needs of each child, to ensure academic success as well as spiritual growth. Not an easy task when you consider Proverbs 22:6; training up a child in the way that they should go is "huge". Please pray for all who labor in education that their work is done with an abundance of patience, grace, and with an eye towards pleasing God. Robin's kindergarten class returned from break and continues to work their way through the alphabet, increasing their vocabulary, and conversational English.



Preparation also applies in aviation, without it, Mercy Wings could not do its mission in safety and excellence. I must always be on the lookout for physical wear on any part of the aircraft; checking records to verify life limited items are replaced before they fail. In this way preparation is maintained at all times.



Recently, I noticed a stain under the right wing, nothing much, just some blue residue. Blue is the color of aviation fuel (AVGAS), normally this will never be seen on the exterior of the aircraft, but there it is.

As though the aircraft were an onion, I began to peel back layer after layer looking for the origin of the escaping fuel. I hunted with a 20x magnifier, while warm, while cold, and in temperature transition, searching for the spot where fuel was being lost. I will continue to search out all possibilities until the cause is discovered and repaired.

This is not unlike our individual spiritual walk; we must continually search out the secret places under the layers, hunting for that which may be out of order and not giving up until it is found and repaired.



As the month of October arrives, change is on the horizon, not all at once, but gradually. There will still be the last hard rains; these will often cause the most damage by aggravating already saturated mountain sides, causing mud and landslides. Such was the case as the U.S. team arrived for the Living Water Teaching medical campaign. Travel slowed due to rain

and poor road conditions, making the team's arrival in La Democracia late in the evening. This location is at the north-eastern border of Guatemala, near La Mesilla, a no-man's-land near the Mexican border. Crime and drugs are ever present in this area, and the people are caught somewhere in the middle.



As we arrived, it was raining hard; the local magistrate and police were there to meet (greet) us. They said they were going to provide security for our team and medical supplies. The next morning we began the task of getting clinic, pharmacy, and ministry areas set up for the campaign. Already, there were hundreds of people waiting to be seen. For the most part, the people waited patiently, even as the cool of the morning hours turned intensely hot.



Many live in or near the small municipality of La Democracia, while others live rural and walk in from the fields. While there is never any cost to the people, some arrive with an offering (vegetables and such), voicing thanks after thanks and patting you on the cheek. These two squash represent something akin to the "widows' mite" - Read Mark 12:41-44



The first days the lines were mainly filled by women with small children and babies, later older men and women, then the people from the fields. Each would have their physical need met by a doctor, dentist, or optometrist. Also, each would be prayed for individually and hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This medical campaign was another great success with 3,051 of Guatemala's poorest people receiving medical, dental, and vision care which otherwise would be out of reach for such as these. And, through street evangelism, evening services, and one-on-one ministry, 819 professed faith in Jesus Christ.



Do you really want to be involved?

Fifteen years ago, Robin and I started in missions, with only a desire in our hearts to serve God's people. Your faithful encouragement, prayer, and giving, over the years, has placed needed skills and resources into our hands. Every soul saved is as though you were here yourself. We challenge you to press in even deeper and continue to help extend our reach to the people.

Visit our family missionary web www.sgsp-aviation.org for praises, prayer requests, and physical needs.



Chuck & Robin Martinez

Your missionaries in Guatemala, serving with Living Water Teaching and Mercy Wings International.