

Martinez Mail

May, June, July 2011



May mornings are crisp and misty, signaling the onset of the rainy season to come. Here in Guatemala tradition and custom are ever present. For instance, every morning (at around 5:30-6:00), there are fireworks, loud and long, that celebrate everything from anniversary to congratulations. It is not unusual for groups of well-wishers to gather outside your window or door to sing in honor of, well, any occasion. One such morning, still in bed at 5:30; we heard singing, song after song, it continued. Each set becoming louder and louder. Peeking out the window of our apartment I found a group of youth from the Bible Institute; there to sing honors to Robin on Mother's Day and to present her with a gift. We are missionaries here to serve the people yet, in many ways the warmth and commitment of the people serves us.



The summer months (June & July) are the time for youth outreach in local and rural schools. Using skit, song, and evangelistic programs, children come to know the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the 21 schools and parks visited, over 8,200 heard the good news and 4,512 confessed Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Youth from the U.S. come for 10 days of ministry to the children of Guatemala. For many it will be the first time away for home, in a country unknown to them, yet they come to share their testimonies' about Jesus. Each day traveling and visiting rural schools and public squares, presenting skits and circulating among the children. At the end of it all, that youthful energy is used for a ministry work day. I am always glad to have a few strong and enthusiastic team members help out at the Mercy Hangar. Today we are mixing concrete that will serve as a tail weight for aircraft maintenance. Robin makes sure the animals that graze the grass in front of the hangar, don't get lonely.



This group is from a distant plantation way up north in La Democracia, they are being taught Bible extension school classes. The plantation owner is a Christian, and decided he would have all his parcel bosses *including himself* trained in the Word of God. They will all graduate together in November.



We look forward to and enjoy each time we find ourselves in ministry to the Maya Indian. We find that we are drawn to the villages, most recently in the area of Cantel. Here, God is connecting us to these rural communities, showing us how to make relationships and become part of the lives of these precious people. And even provided us a special mentor, (missionary Arlene Reitz) that has worked with these people for many years is teaching us how to connect and make a difference in these areas. To get to these mountain villages in the wet season, its 4X4 transportation, burro, or hike.



In this community Pastor Antonio sees to the spiritual growth of his church and congregation. Pastor Antonio (left) opens the doors and the pulpit at Sunday service to ministers willing to make the trip. Social interaction is always part of the gathering, before getting started and afterwards. The afterwards part will always include prayer, tea, bread, and long good-byes.



Saturdays are the scene for Bible classes where many gather for praise and worship led by another local Pastor and his wife. Again, socializing and greetings will be a necessary part of the class. Arriving women receive a ticket that may make them a winner of a special basket of bean, rice, oil, and other useful items. To the winning household, this is a great blessing, as the family table would otherwise go without.



The Bible classes are considered to be serious business for those who attend. Those who can't write, bring a child or friend that can, to help them in their studies. These people are hungry for the Word and will pursue it aggressively and deliberately.



While the parents are in class, Robin helps with the little children. A teaching and a craft project are always a big hit. Later in the year, along about November, we will receive donated items from our home church and friends, these containers are shipped from the U.S. once a year.

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 Gods' 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck & Robin Martinez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chuck & Robin Martinez

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