

# Martinez Mail

November, December 2011



*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*  
—Romans 8:28

Because all things work together; one month, or even a few months will flow together, each having an effect on the other. November & December are no exception. November is when Living Water Teaching (LWT) Bible Institute, graduates resident, non-resident, and extension students. The preparation, ceremony, and excitement culminate with commencement and graduation. Behind the excitement, friends and family begin to arrive in our city of Xela. Extension students and their

families make their way from rural areas to participate and receive their recognition. Special speakers arrive a week before teaching and preaching messages that will usher these out and into their calling. All totaled, 825, will have completed a year's worth of intensive Bible study. Of course air transportation is available by Mercy Wings and yours truly.

Also, in November, LWT receives the containers of toys and supplies that will be used for Operation Shoebox and ministry supplies for the upcoming year. Earlier in the year (April) we visited our home church Shiloh Christian Center, where many items for our outreaches to the Indigenous Maya Indian were donated. Now November, we are just receiving them; we couldn't wait to get to our boxes. School supplies, white boards, writing pads, crafty items, the Jesus Film (DVD), and more, all to minister Gods love to rural children of Guatemala.



**Robin's permanent residency** is just about completed.

Processes in Guatemala can be long and frustrating. And, the frustrating part only begins after we have the money to initiate the process. It's kind of like, purchasing your own pain. We are however, committed to ministering Gods Word to the people of Guatemala and will continue to follow our calling until the Lord calls us home. The advantage of permanent residency is the connection to the country. We have the right to live and minister in Guatemala, with the exception of voting in elections. Even, the ability to reach across borders of Central America, using the residency status of Guatemala. My (Chuck's), temporary residency expires in September 2012 , so sometime before that we will need another \$900.00 to begin my process toward my permanent residency.....stay tuned, the sooner we can get started the better.

**Throughout the year** toys are collected in the U.S. and then transported to Guatemala for “Operation Shoebox”. Then in December, children in the poorest areas receive a generous box of toys and evangelistic outreach. This year 6,150 boxes were distributed, 5,500 adults and children learned about Jesus Christ,



2,560 made confessions of faith. A large U.S. team from various locations in the states traveled to Guatemala, braving hot, cold, and wet weather to share Gods love with the most precious of His creations, the little children.



**In the rugged** and mostly poor area of Cantel, indigenous students, and families gathered on a Saturday afternoon for their regular Bible classes. Only this time an extra blessing was in store for all. Baskets of beans, rice, oil, cookies, and other stuffs were prepared for each. Robin had a great time helping to distribute the Christmas blessings. Afterward they had a special blessing for us, “paches” and tea.



Paches are similar to tamale but are steamed in a large tropical leaf vice a corn husk. And, as tradition dictates all is done with great pomp and circumstance. The best table cloths we set out for our benefit and glass mugs, though everyone else had plastic.



**We were pleased** and blessed that we were able to visit our daughter over Christmas and spend some real quality time with her. Let me qualify what I mean, normally when we are out of Guatemala, we are out for itinerating or deputation (relationships and fundraising). For the thirty days we travel, visit, counsel, share, preach, and teach. We will sleep in countless different beds, share meals, basically on the go all the time. This Christmas allowed us to briefly be a family again with no other agenda except to love one another for a precious few weeks. God is good, our visit with our daughter Rachael was even better that we could have imagined.



**Something that was not unexpected** but never fully prepared for, my mother went home to be with the Lord on 27 December, and she was 87 years old. Robin and I were able to extend our visit in the U.S. by a few days to attend her memorial service. Held at the retirement community she lived in for the past 25 years, she was remembered by her close friends and children. My mom lived on her own to the very end, demonstrating her independent spirit. However, the end of her days came with the knowledge of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Not 5 years earlier, while gravely ill and in an ICU, my mom received Jesus as her Lord and Savior. It was a great privilege to sit at her bedside and lead her in prayer. The sweetness of some moments can't be described.

### **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](http://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.