

# Martinez Mail

January 2012



**Robin and I were able to spend Christmas and New Year's in the U.S.,** returning to Guatemala on 3 January. A lot had happened in just two weeks, all of it good from one prospective or another. We had



excellent visits with Robin's parents and our daughter in Tulsa. We also had time for a few brief but special visits with some favorite friends and some new. During one of these visits, our friends determined they would provide us with some specialized audio/visual equipment. This gear completes a system that is highly transportable and very effective in reaching the rural people of Guatemala. And, as I wrote about in our Nov/Dec newsletter, my mother went home to be with the Lord. Friends and family gathered to celebrate her life and homecoming.

**As is always,** we hit the ground running upon our return to Guatemala. For Robin, school began immediately with her students returning from break and adapting quickly to the routine of classes. **Also we discovered, the gears of the local immigration office** had turned sufficiently so as to produce Robin's national ID card. This card is the last needed element before obtaining the coveted "permanent residency" stamp in her passport. I'll write more on this in the February newsletter.



**Seven days after our return,** I began preparations to fly the Mercy Wings aircraft out of Guatemala, across Mexico, and to Dallas for critical services. With all the necessary documents assembled, updated, and copied, I was ready to begin the adventure. The trip out of Guatemala City was uneventful, landing in Tapachula, Mexico about 50 minutes later.

Entering Mexico from the south requires additional security procedures due to drug trafficking. Upon landing, we are directed to the far side of the runway, and met by Mexican federal agents, Military, and Police. After forms, videos, photographs, and inspections, it's back in the aircraft and taxi to the terminal for customs and immigration and more forms.

**A late departure** from Guatemala meant that reaching the U.S. in one day before dark was out of the question. Minatitlan was the alternative airport listed on my flight plan, in the event strong winds gobbled up more fuel than anticipated. This was in fact the case. The following morning Tampico was the next objective, where you officially exit Mexico for the U.S. There were 6 windows to visit and several documents to have stamped before filing a flight plan for Brownsville TX.

**Before any private aircraft can enter the U.S.** (from the south) one must call and verbally obtain U.S. landing rights. To do this, a Mexican phone card must be purchased, and then locate a working phone, then make the call in a terminal nosier than a train station. This took a good hour. Once off of Tampico, and landing in Brownsville TX, there are U.S. customs and immigration to clear.

The next day, the Mercy Wings aircraft N2379F touched down in Dallas. This time of year winds are out of the north at speeds of 30-35 knots; this decreases your forward speed by the same 30-35 knots. The slower you move across the ground, the more fuel/expense is incurred. This was the case out of Guatemala, across Mexico, and to Dallas. The services that are being completed in the U.S., ensures the Mercy Wings mission in Guatemala will continue to be carried out in safety and excellence.



### **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](http://www.sgsp-aviation.org) for praises, prayer requests, and physical needs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck &amp; Robin Martinez". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Chuck & Robin Martinez

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