



May-June 08



I have now been in Guatemala for three months, and I am loving it! It hasn't all been easy, but it's been worth it. God is continually using this time to stretch my faith and shape me. I am truly learning what it means to be flexible, a lesson not easy to learn but something I know will be beneficial for the rest of my life. I am growing closer and closer to the families and kids here as well. I have lots of little kids to play with, and as you all know, I thoroughly enjoying that! I am growing closer to the Braun family everyday. I love living with lots of people around, which I thought would be an adjustment after living alone for a year. We are heading into the summer months and the busiest time of year for the ministry. There will be quite a few projects keeping us busy such as finishing the ministry building, building a permanent latrine up in Liquidambo, and more construction on the church in San Antonio.

Since our friends from Michigan left we have been busy preparing for the next team who came to put up the Ministry Building. We went up and poured the columns for the lower level. For that we had to tie steel together and then tie it into the bases in the floor. Then we had to tie wood together for the supports and forms of the columns. Then we mixed and poured the concrete into the forms. In another trip up the mountain, we leveled out and poured the floor of the upper level. Since we didn't have a team to help us with this floor we asked Isidro (the leader of Liquidambo) to ask the men of the village to help us with the construction and carrying the heavy concrete buckets up the hill to the upper level. We had 14 men show up

to help us! It was amazing. We had the floor poured in only 4 hours! God is good, He always provides for our needs!

We had a team from Sparks come in the beginning of May, which consisted of three men, and they were ready to work! The first two days we put up the walls of the lower level of the Ministry Building. The walls are made of electro panels (panels of wire and foam) wire tied together. Then we carried the heavy blocks and beams up the hill for the roof of the lower level. It's quite the steep hill we have to climb to take supplies and such up to the construction site! The next day we had 9 men from the village come up to help us carry the concrete up the hill again to pour over the beam and block roof, which also serves as a walkway for the upper level. That concrete project took all day. Then we put up the walls of the upper level and put on a steel lamina panel roof for the upper level. On their last day in Liquidambo the team also got the chance to deliver corn to some of the families in the village. So much work was accomplished in only a week!

What a blessing it was to have these men help carry and pour concrete!



The Sparks team and the building they helped us build in only a week!

We have been continuing to visit Emerson and bring him formula. He is the baby that came to the medical clinic in March that was severely malnourished and had horrible scabies and skin problems. He is doing wonderfully! Praise the Lord! We have been giving baby Emerson formula for the last two months, and have just started giving them cereal for him. He is starting to sit up, and is babbling and smiling! He has such a huge wonderful smile, and he loves Robin. It has been so much fun to get to see him growing stronger and stronger! We are also getting close to the whole family. One of the times we were up visiting the mother told us how they had taken

Emerson to the hospital back in November. The doctor had tried using a syringe to squirt milk into the baby's mouth but he only choked on it. The doctor told the family that the baby was not going to live more than two weeks so they should just take him home and enjoy their short time with him. When we were in the village for the medical clinic a family member convinced the mother to bring the baby to see us. We have since been bringing him formula and cereal and, of course, prayer. The fact that this baby is alive is truly a miracle from God. It's amazing to see the effects of all your prayers and the love of God! He is doing such a great work here.

In between teams we are still working on the ministry building. The last few times we have gone up we have been putting on the stucco, and building retaining walls on the sides of the lower level to prevent mud slides and such. We are now heading into summer, which is the busiest time of year with teams and work. We will be having a team at the end of June, two in July, one in August (from my home church, which I am excited about!), and one in September. We will be busy bees this summer!

Once again I want to thank all of you for your prayers and financial support. I couldn't be here without you all. Keep me posted on what is going on in your lives and let me know if I can pray for you in any way.

In His love,
Charlotte

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Funds: To Strong Tower Ministries
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Prayer Requests and Praises:

- For Emerson, thanks for his health and how he has grown and that he will continue growing stronger.
- For those of you who know Rigo and Martina in Liquidambo, Martina recently gave birth to a stillborn baby. Pray that she heal and that God would comfort the family.
- For Porfilia, in Liquidambo, who gave birth to a baby girl in April.
- For the Brauns and the Comstocks as we come into the busiest time of year.
- For the teams preparing to come down, that they would be prepared in every way.
- For my Spanish, that I will continue to learn and absorb the language.



Robin and Emerson clearly loving each others company on one of our visits. Its so good to see him smiling!!



Porfilia, her son Santos and her new baby girl Marcela.

My first big hike! Visiting a family on the other side of the mountain.



Amilio, from San Antonio, helping set up the form for the upper floor.



Baby Emerson and his great big smile!



Putting together the roof/walkway getting ready to pour the concrete.

The men carrying the heavy concrete up the hill to pour the upper floor and walkway.



Robin and I trying the steel for the column forms.

