



March-April 08

Guatemala here I come!! Well, my first month here has been exciting and eventful. I arrived here safe and sound, but with only one of my three bags. I was so excited to be back, despite the lost luggage! Robin greeted me at the airport after waiting almost 2 hours for me to report my lost luggage. But what a sweet greeting it was, cheesy welcome sign and all!

That same day I flew down we also had two guys, John from Reno and Corie from Idaho, fly in to help with the construction on the Ministry Building in Liquidambo. The very next day we headed up to the mountains and the medical clinic. It was so sweet returning to the breath taking mountains where my team spent half our trip last August. It was like coming home! The first week and a half Robin and I were up and down the mountains several times picking up and dropping people off at the airport. We had an engineering student named Carl come in a few days after I arrived, and he also help with the construction.

While the men were here to help we began digging out the floor of the second level of the Ministry Building which is located next to the medical clinic. We got the footing pored for the retaining wall before Carl went home. We also had the help of two professional block layers from the village of San Antonio up to help us. All the work went well with only a small set back of part of the floor of upper level collapsing. All that extra dirt to move set us back a half a day, but we still got so much accomplished! The ministry building will have a room for teams to meet and eat in, storage and cabinets for things such as medicine, a kitchen, and a sleep area that in the future will be used to house doctors and nurses from Guatemala. The building will be two different levels, an upper and lower one, since its being built right on the side of a mountain! The view is spectacular let me tell you! It is incredible to wake up in the morning to that sunrise coming up over the mountains.

While we were up Liquidambo we were invited to have dinner at Isidro (the leader) and Maria's house. We ate under the stars and had an amazing time of good food and fellowship. It was great to get to sit down and get to know some of the people in the village whom I will be seeing a lot of in the coming months. One of the ladies in Liquidambo, Manuela, also picked my Spanish name (Angela) since Charlotte is hard for them to say. She and I are growing closer every time I go up there. Even though we can hardly speak to each other I am often greeted with a great big hug. The second week was Holy Week (Semana Santa), the week leading up to Easter. The people in Liquidambo have a large catholic influence. We wanted to help share some of the ideas of the resurrection of Jesus and

the joy of that, since they mostly celebrate just the death on the cross. Robin took a felt board and told the story, with pictures, of the death and the resurrection on two separate evenings for church services. The night she told of the resurrection Isidro stood up and said he understood now and that he wanted his picture taken with the felt board showing Jesus raising from the dead so that he could go show it to people and tell them the story! It was so exciting to hear his passion, after all that's what we are here for!

The last week in March we had a lady from Cleveland Ohio, named Chris, come down. She has been friends with the Brauns for a long time. A few days later we had a team arrive from Michigan and Missouri, my first team experience other than the one I came down with in August. The first three days of the team we did medical clinics in three of the villages, Tachoche, Pinalito (a new village), and San Antonio. With the team came a doctor, a physical therapist, and a couple of people experienced in pharmaceuticals. It was an amazing experience. We saw over three hundred people in three days! In San Antonio we saw an 18 month old baby who was malnourished, covered in scabies, was barely opening his eyes, and couldn't even hold up his own head. We were told by the doctor that was with us that the baby was going to die unless God intervened quickly. We all prayed hard for that little baby. Robin also went and bought special shampoo for the baby and his skin as well as formula and took the family some medicine as well. We also had a young man of only 16 with cancer on his lip. It was heart breaking to see something that would be so easily taken care of with access to medical care. After the medical clinics we took the team up to Liquidambo to do some more work on the Ministry building. We got the rest of the floor dug out and leveled and the concrete pored, all in four days! Hauling wheel barrows of concrete up the steep side of a mountain was no easy task, but we had a great team of hard workers! Praise God for that!

The week after the team left Robin and I went up to visit the malnourished baby, Emerson. We were shocked to see how well the baby was doing. It was a miracle! Little Emerson was holding up his own head his skin was almost completely cleared! We knew there was no way that shampoo could have cleared him up that quickly. God is so good! While we were there baby Emerson grabbed Robin's fingers and was responding to his own name, he even smiled at us when we talked to him, something his mother said she had only seen him start doing the day before! And we were blessed with getting to see that smile! Robin had been up to see the baby again since then and he is continually doing better and better, and

has now started babbling. Praise God for His miracles! We are so excited to continue to get to see His work!

Well, that was my first month here in Guatemala! We will continue to be busy until the next team comes in May to build the walls of the Mission building. We will be up in Liquidambo finishing the retaining wall and pouring the floor of the upper level.

Prayer Requests:

- All of the new believers who accepted Christ in the past few weeks. Keep their faith strong and their hearts would hunger for more and more knowledge of Christ.
- Baby Emerson that he continues to grow healthy and strong.
- My adjustment into a new culture.
- My relationships with the people and the villages here in Guatemala, that I would pick up on the language quickly and not let that barrier effect my getting to know people and growing close to them.
- The Brauns – Robin, Steve, Rachael, and Tyler for all that they do with the ministry and for their leadership.
- The Comstocks who are also part of STM.
- The teams who are coming down that they be prepared spiritually and in every other way and details would go smoothly.
- All the work that has to been done with the Ministry Building. That it would all go well and we have no injuries.

Thank you all so much for your faithful prayers and support. I continue to pray for all of you as well. Keep me updated on your lives and all the happenings at home! I love you all.

In His Love,
Charlotte

For Financial gifts:
Strong Tower Ministries
PO Box 50628
Sparks NV 89435
Fund #4 in the memo

Mailing Address:
STM – Charlotte Gepford
Apartado 003
Zacapa, Zacapa
Guatemala, C.A.

Email: cgepford@gmail.com

