



## "IT'S SO CLEAR!!" APRIL/MAY 2008

I'm thinking of the "*why we do what we do*" part of our lives. Sometimes things can become so clear - leave no doubt in your mind - know what I mean? Have you ever had those moments in your own lives? ☺ The mission statement of STM reads: "*To bring the love of Christ in both word and deed to those in need*". There are times when that makes so much sense and seems so obvious. Lately, it appears so clear.

In our last letter, we told you about the team of folks that came from No. Michigan and Missouri to help with medical clinics and construction. We told you of a couple of babies we had found in San Antonio and in Liquidambo. In San Antonio was baby Emerson. He is 18mos. old and has been severely malnourished for a while now. Last November, the family took him to the hospital and after a few days, they were basically told to take Emerson home and that he would die within 15 days. This was due to the fact that he was unable to suck or swallow on his own. He had no muscle tone to speak of either, so he couldn't hold his own head up or move normally. Along comes our little medical team..... the family had been convinced to bring the baby to our clinic that day. Upon examining baby Emerson, it was felt that he may not survive as he appeared very close to dying that day. There are not many options for families like Emerson's - not many resources nor recourses. We knew we needed to believe for a miracle for this precious little boy. With tears and supplication, we prayed..... we bought some shampoo and lotion (as his skin was in horrible condition - peeling off in layers in some places), and began to bring special formula and bottles for him. He looked up and was "alert" as the prayer team prayed that afternoon. We all knew there was something incredible that God would do. As we have continued to visit and pray and help supply for Emerson's nutritional and health needs - we have indeed seen God do a miracle. Emerson "should have" needed lots of therapy to even learn how to suck and swallow from a bottle - we gave advice to "get him started" - and then we have watched as God has done HIS work in this life - and ALL those around him. We've seen Emerson go from near dying, to sucking and swallowing his formula, to his skin clearing up incredibly quickly and with no scarring, to opening his eyes, to holding up his own head, to *SEEING* and reaching for things in front of him, to looking into my eyes - and *SMILING*, to almost holding his own bottle, to eating a few teaspoons of baby cereal, to trying to *STAND* on his own little legs!!! We bought him his first rattle the other day, he loves it. Maybe this is too much detail, but we really desire that you see and understand what God is doing and - *why we do what we do*. It's so clear, isn't it? ☺ It may be one life at a time, and that's ok - it's like when Jesus left the 99 to save the 1. In our last letter - I used one sentence to tell you about Emerson and asked you to pray for a miracle - and now I have spent almost a page telling you of the miracle that we have been seeing!! We serve such an awesome God!!! Keep praying!!!!

In Liquidambo, with this same team, the day we went house to house to deliver some needed corn to some of the families there - we found little Gabriel - 5 mos. old, with the beginnings of pneumonia, and malnourished. You may remember - he has 6 fingers and toes except for one hand. We prayed of course, and then brought some antibiotics and began to deliver formula to him as well. Today, he is healthy, and *HAPPY*, (he smiles all the time) and growing. He reaches for people as we get close and wants to be *HELD*! This in itself is a miracle, not to mention how well he is doing as compared to a couple of months ago. He looks to be a different little baby today. Our awesome God again!

In both of these little lives, they have been touched by our Heavenly Father in a way that cannot be denied by those around them. Both of the families are much more open to hear about Jesus than they were before. Emerson's family didn't want me to come and visit their home originally - too embarrassed by their "poverty" - but NOW, they eagerly await our visits and we sit with them and they share their lives with us! Grandpa is telling people about the miracle God is doing! Gabriel's family now comes down to the clinic to visit us and they come to church services! Entire villages are seeing the work that our awesome God is doing in their midst! It's the *"why we do what we do"*. ☺ Don't stop praying for these babies and villages!

We just want to share with you also - if you have ever wondered, or been asked by others, if short term trips really have any value - or is it better to just send money to help - here are two PERFECT and wonderful examples of how a short term team can be a *TRUE* blessing to a long term ministry. If we think about it...no amount of money would have brought Emerson to us...it was a short term medical/construction team that provided the avenue for the family to come and seek us out that day.

We've been building the Ministry building in Liquidambo since Feb. of this year. It's almost unbelievable to us - to see it happen so quickly! After the work done in March, we continued with the work - and had "fun" getting two floors poured with the help of our friends in Liquidambo! Both were really intense work days within a week - but we did manage to have some fun in the midst of it all. It was great for relationship building as well as for building building! ☺ We had our friends from Sparks, NV here for the second pour and to help actually put the building up! Walls, then roof, then more walls, then roof again - in 5 days! We had to go and buy more supplies as they were able to accomplish things beyond our wildest dreams! They were awesome and the fellowship was really wonderful. We went and delivered some more needed corn - to the other side of the valley this time - and were able to meet some folks we haven't seen or met before. It was a good time of visiting and praying for folks and allowing them to meet us. During the team - Steve had a little accident with a hammer - and couldn't play guitar for a day or two - our son Tyler was with us - and he wound up playing the guitar and leading the morning worship for us - his very first time! It was an especially sweet time of worship for his mom and dad. ☺ THANK YOU SCF - for everything!

There is a man named Hector that lives on the mountain on the way to Liquidambo. He is a very well respected and liked man on the mountain. He and Steve have become friends over time of being in Liquidambo. The other day Hector asked Steve if we would do a service in his house (he's not a believer...yet ☺), because he felt he needed to hear and he wanted those near him to hear as well. So.... We'll be doing a rooftop service at "Don" Hector's house later this month! He could be a mighty man of God on that mountain! Another... *"why we do what we do"* moment. Please pray!

And THEN..... the hospital in Guatemala City that does the heart surgeries had asked if I would teach a class in May for them - they asked that it be something spiritual. When I inquired as to a topic they would prefer, they told me I could talk about whatever I wanted to!!! I thought I was dreaming!!! I made sure I understood - and I had - so I prepared a talk about Jesus and Him being real in our lives and how we can truly live for Him and how HE has the power to heal. I was given an hour - it took an hour and a half - there were lots of questions, tears and prayers. Do I need to say it? The *"why"*.....What an awesome God we serve!

### PRAISE REPORTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

- + For continued growth, health and healing for Emerson and Gabriel, and for those around them - to see the hand of God in their midst - to know that Jesus loves them and that they would desire to know HIM for themselves!
- + For people to see and feel the love of Christ in ALL we do and say, every moment of every day - and that they would desire their own personal relationship with Jesus
- + For growing faith for the body of believers in San Antonio and Liquidambo
- + For ALL the physical work that has been done - and still needs to be done
- + Financial provisions for each aspect of ministry for STM - missionaries included! ☺
- + The well digging to be done in Liquidambo - we desire to find water close to the clinic - and lots of it! GOD KNOWS!
- + STM's summer schedule... a full and busy one, may God be at the center of it all!
- + Health, safety and stamina!!!!
- + For the Comstocks - they are such a blessing and support to us personally and in ministry together. They are increasing in their Spanish speaking and in relationship with the folks here. Paula doing the \$\$books is more awesome than words can express!!
- + Rachael as she is in her last rotation IN the hospital - and the most stressful. After this, she goes to a rural area for 6 months to finish out med school. Pray she will be able to be in our area! She could even stay here with us! GOD KNOWS!
- + Tyler - that he would continue in the positive direction he is going with the Lord and with school too!
- + Charlotte - that God would continue to reveal Himself to her in new, real ways
- + Steve's truck is not going to last much longer - it has been a real workhorse for us over these years - and it is just about done. We'll be needing to purchase another truck by the end of the year or so..... we've been told to let our need be known, so we're doing that. We know and trust in the fact that GOD KNOWS - and that the truck will run until it needs to. Pray with us! ☺

*"Why we do what we do". We are the ones that get to send out newsletters to tell of all the work we see God doing - we know each of you could write your own letters and tell of such things as well! It's the same all over the world - though the **where** may change, the **why** doesn't change! It is our honor to be walking together with each of you in this journey we are all on - thank you for being a part of our lives and part of what God is doing here in Guatemala. We love you!!!!*

In Him,

**STEVE, ROBIN, RACHAEL AND TYLER**

#### Financial gifts to:

Strong Tower Ministries  
PO BOX 50628  
Sparks, NV 89435-0628

email: guabraun@gua.net

web page: strongtowerministriesinternational.org  
cell ph: 011-502-5723-7048 (leave msg.)  
home ph: 011-502-7941-0366

Brauns - "fund #2" in memo  
Comstocks - "fund #3" in memo  
Rach med school - "fund #2R" in memo  
Charlotte Gepford - "fund #4" in memo

#### Mailing Address:

STM - Braun (or whomever)  
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Zacapa, Zacapa  
Guatemala, C.A.



OUR  
LITTLE  
GABRIEL....  
HEALTHY,  
GROWING  
AND  
SMILING!  
😊



BABY  
EMERSON.....TRYING TO  
STAND ON HIS LITTLE  
LEGS.... SMILING AS WE  
LOOK INTO EACH



STEVE TAKING A  
BREAK FROM THE  
FLOOR WITH OUR  
FRIEND EMILIO

FIRST THE COLUMNS  
GETTING THE CEMENT UP THE HILL  
(STEVE AND ROB WORKING HARD)  
WITH A LOT OF HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!



THE WALLS....  
THE CEILING....

THIS WAS THE SECOND CEMENT "POUR"

IT'S A BUILDING.... IN A MERE  
5 DAYS OF WORK!  
.....PAULA WITH THE  
KIDS...WITHOUT  
RELATIONSHIP, WE HAVE ONLY  
BUILDINGS ON A HILL 😊



...VIEWS OF THE  
BUILDING/S IN  
THE  
MOUNTAINS