

WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE!

Feb. 09

Well...where to start? This will be another one of those letters that we have so much to tell you - I'm praying as I type it - that there will be enough space on the paper! ☺

Ok our wonderful, faithful, incredible, awesome family/body of Christ....how do we thank you?? There aren't enough ways - or adjectives! Let us tell you what has happened since you all received the letter from our dear friend Bob Wathen.... We are purchasing a brand new 2008 Ford Ranger XLT, 1 ton, 4WD, turbo-diesel engine, tow kit, double cab - right here in Guatemala City - AND we are paying CASH in full. And THEN....there is the 2001 Ford F250, powerstroke, diesel engine, 4WD, tow kit, double cab - practically brand new (only 33,000 mi) - that has been DONATED! We are in awe of God - and YOU! To merely say "thank you" only scratches the surface of what's in our hearts to say. We love you all so much, wish we could hug each of you in person. I will be flying up to Reno and will be meeting up with Rachael there - and then she and I will be driving the donated truck down to the Texas/Mexico border. There we will be meeting Steve and Tyler who will be taking a bus from Guatemala City to the same border - and then we'll all drive thru Mexico together. It'll be a fun family "adventure". This will all begin on Feb 18th as Rach and I leave Reno to head for Texas. Please pray for all of us as we travel, for mercies on the road and at the borders!! We'll send photos next letter!!

Christmas in Liquidambo....was totally fun with lots of giggles and sparklers and of course Steve (aka Tim Taylor) with all of the big/huge/loud bombs and fireworks. We had a house full of friends from the US (whom we totally love), and we were able to spend time with the folks we love so much in Liquidambo too. There is a tradition here on Dec. 24th and again on Dec 31st. Everyone stays up until midnight at which time all the lights go out and then the fireworks begin - and last for about 15 minutes. There are lights and colors everywhere, bombs going off., It's the coolest light show ever. ☺ We brought lots of the hand held sparkler things - the kids totally loved them - they were running all around the houses, giggling constantly. To see the colorful fireworks and have the big bombs going off - well.... it was tons of fun. Rachael and Corie and Tyler were able to tell the Christmas story with the felt board at the service earlier in the evening - the folks loved it, and Isidro told us they had never been told the story like that before. Thank you Jesus for giving us that wonderful blessing of sharing with our family in Liquidambo on that night of celebration.

For those of you who have been following baby Emerson's story.... He is doing incredibly well!! You may remember our last letter where I told you how Emerson had died and how God brought him back to life. The medicine we started at that time for his Thyroid, *IS WORKING!!!* Another miracle for Emerson! He is growing, becoming a baby/little boy. He's trying to crawl, loves the Johnny Jumper we brought out to his house for Christmas! He is babbling, *LAUGHING*, eating, and he has 3 teeth!!! He is **NOT** the same baby he was a few short months ago! So, yea....what a mighty God we serve!! Keep praying!

Youth in San Antonio are growing! Rach continued the discipleship class while I was in the US visiting in Nov/Dec. She and the girls had some good "talks". ☺ There was a youth "campaign" in January. It was 3 days of evening services with special Ranchera music (yes, Christian ☺), and a special speaker as well. At the end of the 3 days - 18 people had come to the Lord, 8 of them youth - and some of those are the "tough" boys in the village! It was an

incredible and fruitful weekend. Carlos, who is working with STM as well, set the whole thing up, did all the organizing etc. Now we know more of what he's capable of! ☺

A few weeks after the weekend, we were able to take 15 youth from San Antonio up to Liquidambo - to minister there. We basically gave the service time to Carlos and the youth that night. They did an awesome job and were really excited to be there. They created their own original drama, teaching about how we can get so busy in our lives that we don't recognize it when God is knocking on our door. Hmmm. It was good lesson for everyone!

Carlos has been working with us consistently for a couple of months now, and more with the kids in Liquidambo - they love it. He engages the kids and they respond to him. This past week, we had our medical team here from Nevada. I and a few of the ladies on the team helped Carlos with the kids at the night service. He taught them about how God made the clouds and the water and all the things that can grow as a result of that water. We were all helping the kids draw these kinds of things on paper. It was fun! They're learning without knowing it. ☺

An update on the well in Liquidambo - it's about 12 1/2 ft. deep right now. It should be the dry season at this point, but it continues to rain, so the digging is slowed down, but it's still going. ☺ Keep praying for water! (not rain water though ☺)

We need to tell you about the food (corn) crisis in the eastern part of Guatemala (where Liquidambo and San Antonio are, among others). There was so much rain this past rainy season, it was actually too much, which resulted in a significant loss of crops this year. Probably 80% of their diet is corn. The harvest that they just finished should have provided enough corn to last until Aug. or Sept.....as it stands now, they are already out of their harvested corn as I write this. We are trying to help with this crisis, buying what we're able to buy, and trying to make sure the people have at least a minimum to get them by. It costs about \$20 for 100 pounds of corn - which could last up to 2 or 3 weeks, depending on the family size etc. Please pray with us - for provisions (if you'd like to help, any offerings should be marked "corn" ☺) - , and also for wisdom in the best way to help, and disburse the food to those who need it - *AND* we don't want to create a dependence on the "gringos" either. We desire God's wisdom as we move forward over these next several months.

It has been said that our house is never empty. I suppose that could be true. ☺ As of just recently, we have Veronica's older brother, Esving, living with us. He graduated Jr. High (thanks to the faithful financial help from the US) and wanted to continue studying. It gets more expensive as you get closer to the University level. Again, with some help - he is able to continue. These types of courses are not available anywhere close to his home, so he's living with us and going to school right down the street from us in Zacapa. He's a wonderful young man, and making the adjustment to living with our family. ☺

As I mentioned, we had a medical team here from Nevada at the end of Jan. into Feb. There were 5 of them - all medical in some way. We were able to see approx. 430+ patients in 4 days. Rachael was up in the US at the time, but her best friend Maureen from medical school (from Guatemala City) wanted to come out with us. What a blessing she was as well. We had 3 exam stations going each of the days and everyone was busy throughout each day. The team was a blessing in many ways. We were made aware of an elderly man (Miguel) who had fallen out of an orange tree about a month prior and was not able to move, had been in bed for the past month. We visited him in his home (a ways up the mountain), the team looked at some of the films the family was able to have done, examined Miguel and we made a plan of care for him. We saw him on Wed morning, then Steve and I went out and saw him again on Sun. afternoon - he was dramatically improved. His pain was markedly better, which was allowing him to move around in bed a bit better. With the help of the

brothers from San Antonio that came with us to visit Miguel, we stood him up for the first time in a month. He didn't like it but he stood for about 5 minutes.

We progressed his treatment, and are praying for continued improvement - we are awaiting the day when we'll see Miguel walk again! Pray with us - Miguel does not have Christ in his heart *yet* - but we believe he is seeing the power God that can have in our lives.

Praise reports/Prayer requests

- + Wisdom from heaven, for all decisions being made, for God's guidance and direction in Liquidambo and San Antonio
- + That the people in both of these villages would see the power of God in action - and believe
- + 8 baptisms planned for March 7th in San Antonio - youth!! Angels are havin a party!
- + For the TRUCK/S!!! Have we mentioned what a mighty God we serve?! ☺
- + For travel mercies, on the roads and at the borders as we bring the donated truck down to Guatemala, from Reno
- + THANK YOU for all financial provisions for STM projects, food etc and for each missionary
- + For Paula Comstock - she is dealing with several physical issues right now (eyes and herniated discs in her back) - for complete and speedy recovery
- + For Rachael and Corie - he is a wonderful man who loves the Lord. Pray with and for them as they are praying for God's perfect will for their future. God knows! ☺
- + Tyler fell and broke his collar bone right after I came to the US in Nov - it could have been worse - he's all healed up, thank you God! He has found a group of young men that like to play guitar and worship, so he has become quite involved with that. Please pray also that he could finish this last year of school "early" and then take his GED soon.
- + Rachael has finished the study part of med school - now she needs to complete the thesis (with 5 other students). They are hoping to finish and graduate by June or so!! She still needs a full year of tuition even though she may only be there for 1/2 year. God knows!
- + For continued health and growth for Emerson and the other babies we are feeding
- + For Esving - the higher education can be challenging
- + For health, stamina, perserverance, safety

We said it in our last newsletter - about all of us being ONE family, not a bunch of separate people. We have seen this is action in such an incredible way these past few months. It really shows us - and should show you too ☺, that we are all *indeed* part of a very unique and wonderful work that God is doing. What an awesome thing - the body of Christ! That's us and YOU together, walking in faith, trusting in the Lord for every provision and every need. Please know that we are praying for you in these difficult days as well. Remember, GOD KNOWS. Ps. 103:19 - He is indeed a sovereign God who is indeed in control of ALL things.

We love you so much, it is OUR honor to be walking with you. In Him,
Steve, Robin, Rachael and Tyler

Financial gifts to:

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

web page: strongtowerministriesinternational.org

email: guabraun@gua.net
cell phone: 011-502-5723-7048
home phone: 011-502-7941-0366

Brauns - "Fund #2" in memo

Cards and letters to:

Comstocks - "Fund #3" in memo
Rach med school - "Fund 2R" in memo
Corn - "corn" in memo

STM - "whomever"
Apartado 003
Zacapa, Zacapa
Guatemala, C.A.



RACH, CORIE & TYLER TELLING THE SPARKLERS ON CHRISTMAS EVE IN CHRISTMAS STORY IN LIQUIDAMBO

EMERSON IN HIS

YOUTH MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO, YOUTH IN LIQUIDAMBO. ROB AND



VIEWS OF A MEDICAL CLINIC..

...DR. PARKER AND MAUREEN EXAMINING IN TACHOCHE

3 EXAM STATIONS IN SAN ANTONIO ...



...CARLOS GIVING INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING MEDICATIONS

