

## **FAITH LIKE A MUSTARD SEED!**

March 2008

Like the Word tells us - if we have faith like the grain of a mustard seed - we can say to that mountain, "move" - and it will move. (Matthew 17:20) Let me tell you about how we have recently seen more than one mountain move! ☺

We had some friends come down to help out for a couple of weeks (from Ohio, Nevada, Idaho, and Georgia!) - folks coming in and out during a two week period before Easter. It was awesome!! For a while now, we have felt the need to build a "ministry building" next door to the clinic in Liquidambo. It will serve as the meeting and eating place for teams, will have the kitchen and storage, there will be a room for Guatemalan docs and nurses as they come to stay and serve in the clinic (this is our long term vision) as well as rooms for the Comstocks and Brauns to sleep in. We are trying to build with the future in mind - as our desire would be to eventually turn over the project to the Guatemalan people. All of this being said - the only place to build in Liquidambo is the mountainside! So that's what we're doing. ☺ A split level (so we don't have to dig out the mountainside too bad). The first "obstacle" was a rock about the size of half of our big pick up!! Then comes the digging and leveling to be able to "pour" the cement floor. We couldn't have done it without the help of our U.S. friends as well as our Guatemalan friends! Everyone worked so very hard! THANK YOU!! Our last night of this particular week, we had dinner down at Isidro and Maria's house (under the moon light) - it was delicious. We said our goodbyes and goodnights and began to walk "home" to the clinic. To our surprise, many of them followed us and asked if we could have a service and sing!! How I wish I had a picture to show you of this "impromptu" service at the clinic - in the dark, on the stairs, under the stars. Steve played guitar until he couldn't play anymore! We wondered if the folks would go to sleep that night - and they eventually did head back to their homes - what an incredibly special time we had with them that evening. The joy was so evident, the presence of God so strong! We had all seen the first part of that mountain being moved - and we were celebrating together.

So... how many of you could see me, Robin, as a "children's ministry" person? I know - I said the same thing - not too likely, right? Though I love kids and love being around them. Well... when God calls us to something - we all know He WILL provide the means and make a way! I have recently begun to feel in my heart the urgency to begin to truly raise up the kids in the villages - teach them the truth so they have the ability to know when they are NOT being told or taught the truth - in Liquidambo especially but not exclusively. Ok.....waaayyy out of my comfort zone.....talk about God having to move a mountain!!!! ☺ *"God - I'm here to serve, of course - you know my heart - Let me take care of the SICK children God - I can do that - and I know how to do that".* Well...I'm here to tell you that even after 12+ years - we can still be taken right out of our "comfort zone" - just like that! So I went and found the beautiful felt board that had been donated a number of years ago (I've been waiting for the children's ministry person to come along! ☺) - and I knew I was to use it to teach the children the Word. You've heard us talk about God's timing so many times over the years - this is one more example of just how PERFECT His timing is. This was the week before Easter ("Semana Santa" or Holy Week) - the biggest week of the year here. It was the PERFECT time to begin to teach - and I could tell the story of Jesus' death - AND resurrection! Paula and Charlotte thought the adults would like to hear and see the felt board teaching as well - so we had everyone together for the two nights. The first night I took the story up through the crucifixion and told them if they wanted the "rest of the story", they would have to come back the next night. And they did! They were as attentive as I have ever seen them. I had a totally captive audience and was able to present the resurrection story in full. I was able to tell them about the curtain being torn in two and how each one of us can be in God's presence and confess our sins - and be forgiven! There was a party in heaven as one of the men there asked for forgiveness of his sins and accepted Jesus into his heart that night!

Then Isidro (the leader) stood up and told us that now that he had seen that story with the felt board, and heard the story told in that way - it all finally made sense to him. He asked if we would take his picture by the scene of the empty tomb and Jesus not there but RISEN. He wanted to take this photo around to those not present that night - and explain it to all of them!!! Talk about every missionary's dream - and God's perfect timing!! Wow! And by the way, if you're wondering about the mountain that had to be moved in this story - that would be me. I've been reluctant (to say the least) to step into this aspect of ministry, but how can I *NOT*?!! ☺ GOD KNOWS! ☺

Right after Easter, our dear friends from Northern Michigan and another dear friend from Missouri came down to help. What a huge blessing they all continue to be in our lives and in the lives of the people here! When folks come from the US each year, and are able to return to the same places, the people here are able to really get to know the "gringos" and they remember. Those are sweet relationships. The group came this time, to do some medical work as well as construction (as in "POUR" that floor on the mountainside we spoke of earlier!). We did 3 clinics in 3 days. Saw about 350 people. Were able to pray alongside Guatemalan brothers in the villages - for the folks that passed through the clinics. Went to one village for the first time - and it was there that 6 people gave their hearts to the Lord! The next day in San Antonio another 2 people gave their hearts. More parties in heaven! ☺ Praise God! The group had services in each village and did a skit, which was a blessing in helping to teach about how we *could* and *should* be more Christ-like in our lives.

During the clinic in San Antonio, a family came in with a pretty malnourished and sick 18mo. old baby boy - Emerson. He needs a miracle. Please keep him in your prayers (and us, for wisdom). Another opportunity for us to trust alone in God's sovereignty.

On to Liquidambo to help prepare the dirt and the mountainside so it can be level and get ready to pour that floor! There was an incredible amount of work to be done in order for us to be able to pour the concrete with the group. You see, we wanted to take advantage of having a group here to help us get all that cement UP THE HILL! ☺ More mountain moving! Everyone gave all they had - and then some - and we poured that floor! It was a trick getting the wet, prepared concrete up the hill to the site, but with some creativity - it all worked! (see photo in the middle)

While in the U.S. still, the group asked if there was a way in which they could really help the folks in Liquidambo and elsewhere. We told them that this time of year is a bit more difficult in terms of having enough corn to eat (right after the difficult coffee harvest season). They set about raising funds to help with the purchase of "some" corn. They wound up raising 3 times as much as we had originally spoke of. Isn't God good??? Aren't His people SO faithful!?? ☺ We were able to purchase the corn and about half of us set out hiking one afternoon (while Steve and Rob and Paula and the rest stayed to do the very difficult prep work to be able to pour the floor) to go house to house to deliver the corn and hopefully minister physically as well as spiritually. We of course asked permission from every home before entering. We asked if they had specific needs that we could pray for. Each home was very welcoming and open (we don't believe in "pushing") - and we were able to pray for a variety of needs the people felt in their hearts. One young mom asked us to pray for the health of her chickens so they could have some meat. Others asked us to pray for their crops. Yet another asked us to pray for safety from their enemies on the next hill over. Real, everyday concerns that can serve to bring us maybe a new perspective on our lives and how we pray? As we begin to reach out back beyond the clinic (the vision we have), we met another malnourished 5 mo. old baby boy - Gabriel. He has 6 fingers and 6 toes (one hand does not). Please keep him and his family in your prayers, and again us - for wisdom. That night as we held a church service - there were so many people, they had to stand outside as well - like standing room only! Praise God, as they heard the salvation message in a way it has never been presented to them!

THANK YOU again to everyone who has come down this past month - for all your hard work and dedication to the Lord! Such a blessing - in more than one way - and in more than the obvious ways that we see! God knows!

**Praise Reports/Prayer Requests**

- + For the new souls and the parties in heaven! For spiritual growth and a deeper faith!
- + For Emerson, and Gabriel - for health and healing! And for divine wisdom and guidance
- + For continued deeper understanding of the Word and faith - in Liquidambo and other villages we're able to minister in
- + For the chickens, for crops and for safety - as per their own requests in Liquidambo
- + For all the work (cement and otherwise) that has been done and has yet to be done - "shall we say....mountain moving?" GOD KNOWS! ☺
- + Continued financial provisions and blessings in all aspects of STM - projects and missionaries alike.
- + A wonderful and blessed trip to Romania (we saw GOD things!). A village opened up to Christians for the first time, people came to Christ, and so much more! Praise Jesus!
- + Always - For health, safety, energy! ☺
- + Rachael - in her internal medicine portion of her internship. Overnight shifts (36hrs every 4<sup>th</sup> day) are especially difficult as she's in charge. Some big decisions to be made this year for her future after she graduates this next year.
- + Tyler - keeping this latest "positive" attitude towards school and finishing! For his desire to really learn. He is so excited about playing guitar and worshipping - he's improving by the minute! ☺
- + **STM WEB PAGE!!!!!!** Yes - finally! Can you hear the trumpets? ☺ We know a lot of you will be rejoicing about this - as are we! It's God's perfect timing! Thank you and bless you Troy and Stephanie!!!! We'll be ready for viewing by **April 21<sup>st</sup>!!!** Let us know what you think!

**"strongtowerministriesinternational.org"**

AS always, it's time to thank you all for being such a part of all that happens here in Guatemala. Faithful prayer with that mustard seed of faith is how mountains are moved in *any* of our lives - and we DO appreciate your prayers and support more than we can express! You are in OUR prayers too! Let us know how we can specifically pray for YOU, we'd love to hear from you! We love you!

In Him,

**STEVE, ROBIN, RACHAEL AND TYLER**

***Financial gifts to:***

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"KEY TO LOOKING AT PICTURE PAGE"..... From the top, left to right

- the digging out and "moving of a mountain"..... cement for the floor
- the floor in progress.... this is how you get a heavy wheelbarrow UP a hill! ☺ ..... It's a floor!!!!
- a view of both buildings in Liquidambo....Dr. John Everett and Robin examining pts. at a medical clinic
- Prayer at a medical clinic..... Isidro with the scene of the empty tomb and Jesus *RISEN!*

