

**HOW DOES ONE DESCRIBE
THAT FEELING?
HOW FAITHFUL IS OUR
GOD?**

Fall 2007

Looking at these past few months - this is what comes to mind. To try and describe feelings over these past few months - is really to think and reflect on "*How faithful is our God?*"

On a personal note, Steve and I celebrated our 25th anniversary in September. Our beautiful daughter planned an awesome surprise for us (we were blindfolded!) in an outdoor gazebo - then she and Tyler served us an incredible dinner set to romantic music and candlelight. How can one describe the feeling to have our kids bless us like that? It was a really emotional thing to take a few minutes and look back on 25 yrs. - where we each have come from and where we've been together and then - where we think we may be going. We felt so blessed - sweet tears were the only way to express what was in our hearts that night. God has been so faithful to have brought us to this point.

With the medical clinic open and operating, I have felt in my heart for a long time - I need to be prepared for the inevitable - a pregnant woman will come and need help delivering her baby. How does a nurse who doesn't even work in a hospital come by such preparation (without going back to school for several yrs??). Well, she lives in Guatemala and she has a daughter in med school in Guatemala, doing her OB/GYN rotation. She asks the head of the department for special permission to come and be alongside her daughter and the residents.... and they grant it!!! Well.... just like God (He supplies our needs according to HIS riches and glory), I had the chance to be right over Rachael's shoulder as she delivered babies (with all the skill and compassion that God has given her) and to have her teach me things I didn't know, - again - how do you describe THAT feeling?? I was there to watch her deliver her 100th baby - she has actually delivered 142! Anyway, after watching 10 deliveries, they gave me permission to deliver babies (with supervision of course). Ok, so there I am, with my daughter over MY shoulder now, giving me helpful hints and instruction - I delivered a baby!!! And then another one, and another one - a total of 5 babies in one night. THAT'S how one gets the needed preparation - *how faithful is our God??!!*

Right before this incredible night happened - I would like to share with you one of the most difficult things I have faced in 12yrs. of living in Guatemala. First, Craig who has been with us for 9 months had a birthday in September. His family sent his best friend down here to surprise him - it was a lot of fun planning that. As part of Jeremy's time here with Craig, we planned a trip to go and see the Tikal Mayan ruins and pyramids in the northern rain forest of Guatemala about 5 hrs from Zacapa. So Craig, Jeremy and I left Zacapa one morning and had been driving for maybe 3 hrs. when we came across a strange sight on the side of a fairly deserted road. A mom, screaming and crying out, holding a limp and bleeding little boy (maybe 5yrs old). We were in disbelief of what we were seeing but we quickly realized that there had been an accident - though there was no other car on the road. We pulled over and ran to the woman. The boy was not breathing. I told the mother that I was a nurse and asked if she would like me to try and help the boy - the woman next to her said yes, so I started giving artificial breaths to the little boy. His pulse was still strong - though the many by-standers that were gathering at this point told me the boy was dead already. I told them he had a strong pulse and needed oxygen - and again asked if they would like me to continue - they said yes. Things are not the same as the US - I needed to have this "permission" as a "gringo" in order to feel like I could continue. We were about 2 hrs from the nearest medical help. After some minutes, the boy's heart stopped beating as well and I was doing full CPR. His heartbeat came and went several times. I attempted to explain what was happening, asked if they wanted to continue - they told me it was my decision. Well, I could hear my own "voice" as I began to cry out to God in my spirit as I continued CPR. "God, please make this decision obvious, take it out of my hands!!". He did, and after several more minutes of the boy not having a pulse, I was able to tell the mother and the crowd that had gathered - it was time to stop. They all agreed. A very difficult moment of course for all concerned. Craig was on his knees right beside me, handing me things I needed from my medical kit, and Jeremy was right there as well. We found out the truck owner that hit the boy was the ranch owner that employed most of the men there. They did not want to get him in trouble and possibly lose their jobs so they were going to protect him and not tell the police anything. Hard to swallow, I know. We were able to leave the scene and had a

3-way hug down the road. We comforted each other with the fact that God is sovereign, and we thanked HIM for being the Giver of life. We pray maybe one day, the mother's heart will be comforted by the fact that everything that could have been done at that moment, was done. Praise Jesus for the preparation He gave me in my 15yrs. of pediatric ICU work. *How faithful is our God* to allow me to be part of bringing new life into the world with my daughter and experiencing that joy, right at the time when my heart was healing from this experience! **GOD KNOWS!!**

Remember little 3yr old Milia and 2yr old Miterio both from Liquidambo, severely malnourished and not walking? They are both walking now! It's so awesome! The last visit we just had with Milia - she allowed us to tickle her - and she was laughing! How does one describe THAT feeling? *How faithful is our God?! We pray that the people around these families see the love of Jesus through this process as the kids grow stronger and healthier.*

We had a team in late Sept - brought to us as a result of Rachael's time on the Mercy Ship in Africa 6 yrs. ago. They were a huge blessing to all. They brought dramas set to music and they needed some extra people to help so Craig and Tyler stepped right up (finally an outlet for all the drama!). The truth is, the dramas were very effective in bringing the message of Christ's love for us, the victory we have in Jesus, and the people wanted even more! While the team was here, we were able to have our first medical clinic in San Antonio. The folks were so excited - the church helped organize the "event" with us! We saw 100 people in basically an afternoon. Rob and Paula were part of the prayer station we have at all our clinics - they were able to be alongside some of the local folks from the church body there and shared the gospel in Spanish! Together they helped 13 people come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ! A party in heaven!

The very next day, we began to put the roof on the church building there as well. The metal trusses (roof supports) are 25ft long - they weighed a TON! It was quite a sight seeing those being lifted up into place with ropes and men and long heavy tree trunks! OK, yes, it's obvious I am NOT a construction worker, but it's fun to visualize, isn't it?! Praise God for His sovereign protection! By the end of the next day - the roof was up!! It was pretty awesome. The men in the village were a great help and the women cooked some marvelous meals for us! *How faithful is our God?!*

After the team's time with us - they were able to network with a couple of other ministries here in Guatemala. Craig and Tyler were able to go along with them. They all were able to minister to, and love on, disabled children in Antigua and then go to Puerto Barrios and do some open air ministry with dramas and music. It was an awesome time for all. Tyler was able to spend extra time with the team leader who plays guitar and leads worship - Tyler seems to have found a new passion since this past summer - he's learning to play guitar and is really good! He even helped lead worship one of the mornings with the team! How does one describe THAT feeling?? *How faithful is God?!*

We've just had the inauguration of the church in San Antonio! What a day! You may have noticed over that past 6 yrs or so - that STM does not build church buildings for the sake of having a building. We believe more in the building up of the body and seeing folks grow in their faith - and then if there's a need for a building - that could be the time to build it. Seeing the spiritual growth and passion in the pastor and the people in San Antonio - it became obvious to us - it's time to help build the building itself. So we had a grand celebration of God's faithfulness - remember that the believers there prayed with us for the financial provision - and together we saw it come - thru folks like you all! The inauguration day was so full of emotion. There were many tears of joy for some of the believers that have been so faithful over the years, the love we felt among us that day was deep and so real - how does one describe THAT feeling? *How faithful is our God?!* Steve even had the honor of preaching that night! We had group games earlier in the day - it was awesome to be able to spend the time with the kids there and love on them as well. We all laughed together and really enjoyed each other. As we said our goodbyes the next day - some of the girls had made special cards and many of them were telling us that they counted us like family. We all hugged and cried together as we eventually had to pull away and wave goodbye. We said it was more like "Hasta Luego" (see you later).

Craig will be heading back to the US on Nov 16th after being here with us for 9mos. He preached in Spanish for the first time this week - and did a wonderful job! We're so proud of him! We want to thank him for the huge blessing he has been to our family, the ministry and most especially to the people of Guatemala. He'll be missed by all. We bless him and send him off - reminding him and others... this is not the end of anything - it's just the beginning of the next part of your journey with

Christ. We know God has great things in store! Pray for him as he seeks God's will for the next step!
We love you and we thank you Craig!

Isidro (the leader in Liquidambo) was recently attacked by a young man with a machete on his way back to Liquidambo, cut his head from behind his ear to above his cheek bone (about 8 inches long). It was very scary for all those who witnessed it. The family was beside themselves and scared to death. I received the phone call while we were all in Guatemala City - and headed back to Zacapa that same night to be able to visit Isidro the next day in the hospital. Craig and I arrived at the hospital and Maria (Isidro's wife) just broke down into my arms and cried. He was released that next day and we were able to provide a ride back home. When we arrived in Liquidambo, they were sobbing, tears falling. We were able to hug and comfort many of them as they let out all the emotion they had been holding in until they finally saw Isidro again that day. It was an incredible time of openness among us - can't even begin to describe THAT feeling. He's doing much better and I'll be taking out his sutures tomorrow. Praise God again for His sovereign protection! *How faithful is our God?!*

PRAISE REPORTS/PRAAYER REQUESTS

- The 13 new brothers and sisters in Christ!
- Growth and deeper relationship in Jesus - for all
- We'll be in the US (Reno and No. Calif) for about 2 mos - mid Nov thru mid Jan - That we could accomplish God's will in this time of visiting and reconnecting, and that it would be a time of renewing and refreshing as well.
- The Comstocks will also be spending about 2 mos in the US - that their time would be fruitful - and restful! Rob preached in Spanish a couple of weeks ago - he did great!! They also just helped us with Spanish worship leading in Liquidambo - again, they did a great job! We're so proud of them!
- We're having an STM board meeting in Reno the week of Dec 10th - lots to talk about - things to be updated - where we're headed for the future. We're praying that the financial provision comes in for the Comstocks to be able to attend as well! God knows!
- Rach will be in Reno for Dec and Jan - doing a 2 mo. Elective, studying Infectious Disease under a friend of ours. She'll be able to make rounds and actually "work" in the hospital there. She's a bit nervous about it - all of her medical terms are in Spanish! This may be a shock of a different kind for her. She's praying about what to do after graduating next year. One option is to spend time working in the TB and Leprosy hospitals (yes, Leprosy). There's also Thailand, Brazil, England for specialization in Third World Medicine. Please pray with her!?
- Financial provisions for all aspects of STM - work/church projects, personal funds for missionaries. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS!!!! How faithful YOU are!! ☺
- ALWAYS - health, energy, safety

Jehovah Nissi - He is our Sovereign Protector and Strong Fortress. To say that we have recently become aware of this name of the Lord would be the understatement of this year! How many times is it more than obvious to us that we have been protected by God - by the same token, how many more times are we protected and we ARE NOT aware of it?! We have become more accustomed, as of late, to thanking the Lord for those times of protection that we are NOT aware of. There is peace knowing that we are ALWAYS in His hands of protection - though we may not know it or be consciously aware of it. As we enter into the holiday season - may we all be aware of God's presence with us every moment of every day and for His PROTECTION over us - no matter where we may find ourselves! May this holiday season be filled with family and friends and with peace and joy from heaven. We love you!

In Him,
Steve, Robin, Rachael and Tyler

Financial gifts to:

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