

MOUNTAIN MILESTONES

News from Bill and Linda Brierly in Guatemala

Bringing in the Sheaves - October 2008



Remember that old, classic hymn - "***We will go rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves...***"?

It speaks to us of a season coming to a close, a time of taking an account of what God has brought our way during the time of planting, tending, nurturing, and NOW reaping the harvest.

What we harvest is a result of God's Power and Provision, and our purpose and pain responding to His guiding us and growing us.

The month of December is vacation time for the Guatemalans, and Bill and Linda will leave for the States and Canada for 3 months. We will visit churches in Texas, Oklahoma, British Columbia, and Alberta, and exhibit at Mission Fest Vancouver. We'll visit family and friends, and spend Christmas in our little cabin in the woods. Let us share with you the "sheaves" that we are "bringing in".

God's Story

After a week of 12-hour days in the recording studio, sweating, despairing, and persevering, Pastor Rumaldo, Dolores, and Glenda gave birth to the first ever story of God in the heart language of the Pokomchi people. Four groups of villagers have since watched it and have approved the translation. The field test is a success! And the people are thrilled! Next we will send the disc to California to have the final professional master disc made.



Weld, Weld, Look at That!

Our guys can now fabricate the latrine structures and save a lot of money. Thank you, TK, for the great training and for all the equipment you donated.



The Holy Goats!

Two young goats in the goat program died this year. The village ladies of the goat program wracked their brains

to think of what to do to prevent any more goat deaths. Their solution? Pray for the goats. Ask God to protect them, give them health, and prosper them. And so, we and some members of the team from McKinney, TX. who were working in the village at the time joined the ladies in a Goat Prayer Service. How many of us deal with our problems this way?



Super Tankers

Thirty families in the villages of Wach Coob and Pampacche now have rainwater collection tanks - abundant water! - right outside their front doors, thanks to the hard work and generous funds of our short term teams this year. The teams hailed from churches in Texas, Oklahoma, and Michigan. The teams endured rain, mud, sickness, no plumbing, and no electricity AND managed to stay cheerful. Now that's living on the Edge!



Santa Cruz de Quetzal

Fifty four families live in this remote village, 3 hours on foot, then 1 hour by bus from San Cristobal. We will start working with these families next year and to this end, Glenda, Dolores, and Eva have been going house to house to do base-line interviews with the families. Three young ladies from this village are in our Middle School Scholarship Program and have helped us greatly getting to meet the families.



Second Year Down

Our 10 middle school scholarship students have been at the top of their class all year. Next week they will get the results of their final exam. Next year will be their last year of middle school. What will their futures hold? Much more hope and many more options than before they entered our program.



Health Clinic Highlights

The best way for you to understand how successful the rural health clinic has been is to give you a snippet of a recent report:

Project Results to Date

- General consults in the clinic attended daily: 25-50 patients
 - Lives saved per month, especially maternal and newborn: 3-5
 - Total number of Maternity patients attended: 76
 - Transfers to higher level of care per month: 1-3
- Total number of Home Visits made (teaching, follow-up care, or consult): 55
 - Total number of villagers who received educational talks (about personal hygiene, diarrhea, signs of danger in pregnant women, family emergency plan, the environment): 1050



Additional Benefits through Networking of ASOSAP

- Globemed, a university-student U.S. national organization has adopted the Health Clinic as a formal project; they plan to provide funds and technical support in a long-term commitment
- Dr. Michael Polifka, a U.S. physician from Vermont, has made a long-term commitment to spend 2-3 month periods annually working with the nurses; he plans to do on-going training to the nurses, see patients with more complicated or chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, or epilepsy; he will supply his own medicines

Impact on the Health of the Villagers

- Incidence of diarrhea has been reduced to a minimum
- The nurses' collaboration with the traditional midwives has significantly averted maternal and newborn complications or death
- Due to the fact that villagers can receive health care in their own ambience, delivered by nurses from their own culture and language, without the cost of going to town, they seek health care sooner and avert illnesses becoming more serious
- Due to the fact that the nurses are Pokomchi, the patients receive important teaching about preventative health during each clinic consult
- Due to the fact that the supply of medicines has been adequate and consistent, patients have avoided having to use their limited resources to buy them or resort to not obtaining them at all and thus going without adequate treatment
- Due to the organizing and training by the Pokomchi nurses, the village leaders have taken much more ownership in the health of their people, are proactive and participative in solving health issues
- Due to 24-hour emergency care available in the area, a significant impact has been made on saving lives and averting more serious health consequences

Needed Urgently

A couple with a heart to serve the Pokomchi people and a willingness to make a long-term commitment - this is our most urgent need. We hope and pray that this ministry will carry on for a long time to come, but Bill and Linda need to step back and shift roles. Let us know if anyone comes to mind and we ask you to keep this need in your prayers.

We wish you a Happy Harvest! We look forward to hearing about the "sheaves" that you are "bringing in" this year. Write to us!

Hopeful Harvesters for the Lord,

Bill and Linda

For financial gifts, please mail your checks to the following:

In Canada

Hope of the Pokomchi
Box 1817 RR#1
Clearwater, BC V0E-1N0

In U.S.A.

PRISM Foundation
6831 Cottage Hill Lane
Celina, TX 75009

Make check out to:

Clearwater Christian Church

PRISM Foundation

In lower left of check, write: Hope of the Pokomchi -(either) Brierly Support (or) Project