

MOUNTAIN MILESTONES

News from Bill and Linda Brierly in Guatemala

Brenda's Smile - June 2008



Little Brenda is 6 months old and weighs 7 lbs. She has a fungal infection in her mouth and on most of her body. On top of the fungus she has a bacterial infection. She also has scabies. She is severely malnourished.

Shortly after birth she was rejected by her mother, who suffered serious post-partum complications and just couldn't cope with Brenda.

But Brenda ***SMILES*** - the most beautiful ***SMILE*** lights up her whole face when she looks at you!

Brenda, who has absolutely NO reason to smile, does. She shames and inspires us. Too often we frown and grumble when we really have NO reason to. God has such creative ways of nudging us back into HIS perspective of life!

Actually, we of Hope of the Pokomchi' do have lots to smile about lately.

Leaving on a jet plane...!

Bill's, Linda's, and Glenda's April trip to the States - California, Texas, and Oklahoma was rewarding and positive. They were able to cement existing relationships, meet new folks, and plant seeds for new support for our ministry in the future. Glenda was a great hit and excelled in touching hearts with her presence and her testimonies.

The Gods Story Project is launched!

Remember, this is the 80-minute DVD telling the salvation story from Creation to Eternity. We plan to translate it into Pokomchi and disseminate it out to the remotest mountain village.

Leandro is our translator and will start the translation work bright and early on June 2nd. It's a daunting job and we covet your prayers for him and the entire project.

Ready, ACTION!

Chris, a youth pastor from McKinney First Methodist Church, spent an action-packed week with us filming our work. This will be a promotional movie about ASOSAP and all costs are being donated by the church.

Reinforcements are on the way!

James and Claudia, the young couple we have been praying for, have indicated that they will make the 5-year commitment to ASOSAP- YAY! They will come in July for 2 ½ weeks for a get-acquainted visit and start their full time commitment in February 2009.

There's a doctor in the hills!

Dr. Michael Polifka, from Vermont, just literally popped up out of the woodwork 2 weeks ago, spent a morning with our 2 nurses at the health post, and was so excited about the project that he has committed to working with the nurses for 1 month three times a year indefinitely. He plans to return in October of this year. He will be a tremendous help in improving our nurses' skills and in raising the already good quality of health care even higher.

'Tis the Season!

Our "team season" starts on June 6th with the arrival of our first team. We are very excited at the prospect of so many great folks coming down to work along side us and the villagers. So, just like a good house wife preparing for her visitors, we have been scurrying around getting everything ready so our guests will feel "at home". We've done just about everything except bake a cake!



Brenda's SMILE is reflected back in the big SMILE of her grandmother. Perhaps this is the reason that Brenda smiles so readily. She is sustained by the tremendous LOVE that her grandmother has for her.

Love is a powerful force. Look what God's love has done for each of us, and continues to do. We are reminded that as much as the milk and medicine we are now giving Brenda, it is LOVE that will ultimately see her through. It's God's love that we try to allow to radiate through us, that will ultimately transform the lives of the Pokomchi villagers.

Ever Striving for the King,

Bill and Linda