

MOUNTAIN MILESTONES

News from Bill and Linda Brierly in Guatemala

God's Arm is Not Too Short - January 2009

May God give you many blessings. Thank you in the name of all the rural families for the help and support that you have given them. I know that sometimes you think that you don't see any results and everything is just the same as when you arrived, but I know that in the hearts of those men, women, and children, there is a big change. The most important thing is that they know that God exists and He manifests Himself in people like you. They know that you have given them the very best - GOD'S LOVE.

With love, Carla

ASOSAP lawyer and personal friend of Bill and Linda



I send this letter to let you know that I am very happy for the scholarship. Not everybody has this opportunity; that's why I am very proud of what you do. I believe that there are angels who help us, and you are one of them. Thank you very much.

Sincerely, Irma Chacoj del Quetzal
ASOSAP middle school scholarship student

Snow What!

When they were still in Guatemala, Bill and Linda dreamed about what their ideal time would be like in their Canadian cabin in the woods by the creek. Bill's dream was shoveling snow and chopping wood. Linda's dream was sleeping late and reading books by the fire (while Bill shoveled snow and chopped wood!).

Well, over a meter of snow fell while they were home and there was a prolonged cold snap of -35C. So each of their dreams came true, in SPADES!

Upheld in Loving Arms

Bill and Linda's last month in Guatemala was fraught with much dejection and anxious hand-wringing. When they arrived in the States to start their journey up to Canada, they were wilted with fatigue, their heads bowed and arms hanging weakly at their sides. But they are leaving Canada refreshed and restored, thanks to the loving arms of their church family, friends, and neighbors. They were tenderly embraced, pampered, encouraged, and strengthened in countless ways!

Goats Galore

The old billy in the goat program in Guatemala has proved his mettle! One nanny has produced triplets, another twins, and another a single kid. Sadly, another nanny died while trying to bring forth triplets as well.

Hi Ho Hi Ho, It's Off to Work They Go!

January 5th marked the start of the ASOSAP 2009 work year. Nicolas and Carlos started by welding latrine structures for latrines to be installed in Pambon Grande. Nicolas has also spent time helping the ladies with their goats. Dolores and Eva are putting the finishing touches on health and Bible lesson themes to be taught in Pampacche and Pambon Grande. They have also started visiting the villages to register ladies for the education classes. Glenda has been coordinating all the activities including the work at the health clinic and the startup of the final year of the middle school scholarship students. She has also been coordinating ASOSAP's contributions to disaster relief in our area.

Disaster Strikes!

On January 4, 2009 a big chunk of mountain on the outskirts of San Cristobal fell down burying and injuring scores of people. None of the villages that we work with were affected, but Linda's best friend's husband was killed and her oldest son, Max was injured and hospitalized. Eight thousand people are affected, either displaced or cut off from their normal sources of food and commerce. Eight hundred men, women, and children are being housed indefinitely on the premises of the town hall in San Cristobal. The mountain remains unstable and no one knows how long this dreadful situation will last. Meanwhile, the businesses, families, churches, and organizations of the area are helping the government meet the enormous daily needs of food, clothing, water, and medicine for thousands of people. Bill and Linda's church in Clearwater have given a generous donation so that our ASOSAP team in Guatemala can respond to this relief effort.

Why are God's arms not too short? Because He is all-powerful. And because in His unfathomable wisdom, He chooses to accomplish His good and show His love in this world by means of OUR arms. We only need ask ourselves, "Am I willing to lend my arms to God for His good purposes?"

Arm in Arm with 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