

MOUNTAIN MILESTONES

News from Bill and Linda Brierly in Guatemala

In the Mist - May 2009

The panorama in front of me was a big white blank. I saw no point of reference. I couldn't get my bearings. I felt disoriented!

As I sat there early in the morning on the balcony, my disoriented feelings led to disoriented thoughts. I reflected on the past 2 months...

...a few weeks after returning to Guatemala, Bill and I, after suffering the increasingly putrid smell of DEATH in our bedroom, tracked down the source to the decomposing, maggot-infested, black-liquid-oozing body of a giant rat in a drawer of sheets under our bed. Weird!!

...the increasing incidence of murders and mayhem in Guatemala, even in our own sleepy town, plus the economic down-turn led to every one of our seven teams canceling their trips for this year.

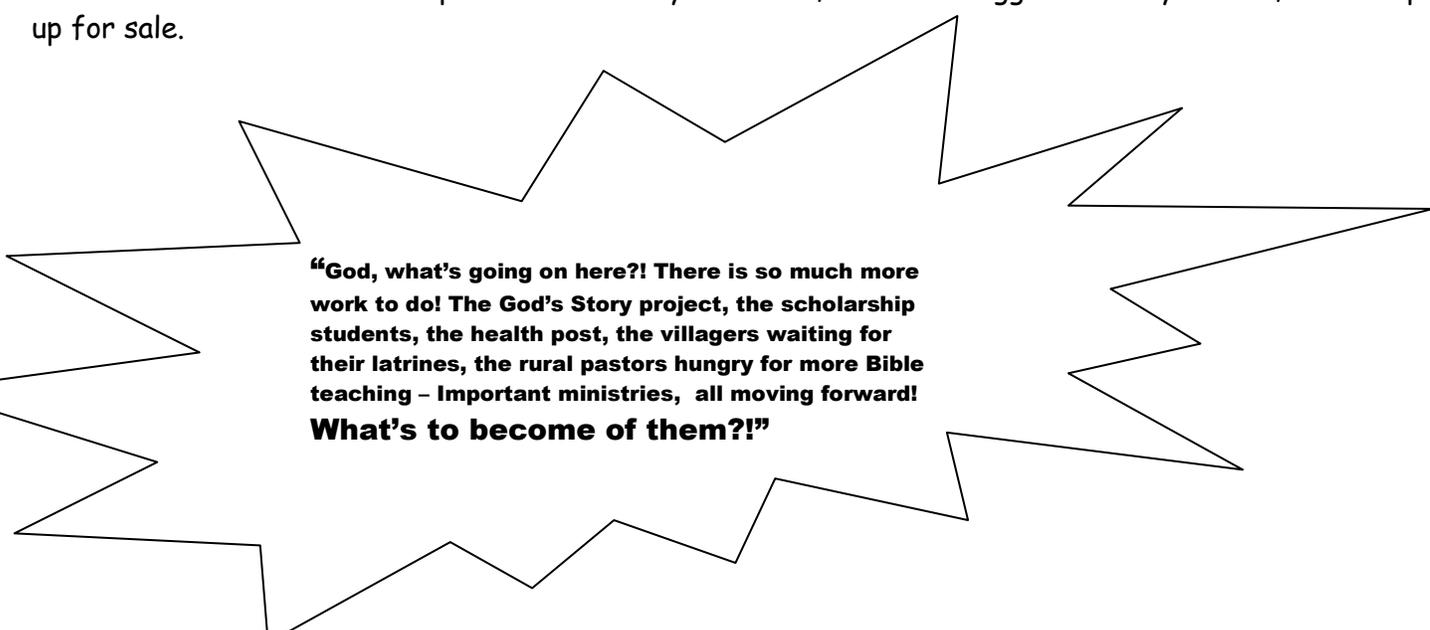
...Mateo, one of the 2 nurses at the health post, suddenly up and quit; then Eva, our villager trainer who had worked with us for over 5 years, suddenly up and quit.

...Dolores, coordinator of the God's Story project, became severely ill and was hospitalized for a while; she is back at work but still weak and recovering from a severe kidney infection.

...Several key financial supporters advised us that they would be stopping their support.

...Bill and I, after searching and praying for 2 years for a couple to replace us in the field, have realized that this has to be our last year in the field, even though we have no replacements.

...The 2 acres that ASOSAP purchased a few years back, to build a bigger ministry center, we have put up for sale.



“God, what's going on here?! There is so much more work to do! The God's Story project, the scholarship students, the health post, the villagers waiting for their latrines, the rural pastors hungry for more Bible teaching - Important ministries, all moving forward! What's to become of them?!”

In the midst of these thoughts, sitting on the balcony that early morning, I saw the blanket of white mist gradually lift, revealing little by little, the dense, green, very solidly present forest of trees. This was our municipal park called "The Petencito".

And suddenly my disorientation gave way to an "AHAA!" moment!

"I see now, Lord! Just as The Petencito was there the whole time even though all I saw was a white blank, so YOU are here with us, SOLID and VERY PRESENT. You have a perfect plan for us and for the ministry. You are in CONTROL, even though we feel so disoriented and out of control in our own strength and understanding."

Woohoooo!! Yes!

At the intersection of Hope and Faith, my reflections took a positive turn...

...most of the teams who have canceled have promised to send the project funds, so the villagers will still get their latrines.

...Roberto, the remaining nurse at the health post is now working full time and doing a good job, taking more ownership, and Dr. Michael has come again to continue teaching him.

...Maria Consuelo, a lovely young Christian mother of 2, and recently graduated auxiliary nurse, has stepped in to take Eva's place.

...The God's Story Project: We have the masters and we will start meeting with the pastors next week to recruit volunteers from among them.

...Bill and I are working out a plan with our Canadian Board of Directors for the rest of this year and to keep the ministry going through 2010, modified but still alive and well, God-willing!

...Most importantly we are ALL- Bill and I, our Pokomchi staff, and many of you - praying and trusting God. **He is active and working in the midst of our Mist. He has a great plan!**

Mystified by God's Greatness and Faithfulness!

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

