

## **MOUNTAIN MILESTONES**

News from Bill and Linda Brierly in Guatemala

**Straddling** – March 2010



**Better not drop the baby!**

**We are holding the baby and straddling - one foot on solid ground, the other on an island which is steadily floating away!**



**The straddle is getting harder and harder; the stretch - can we maintain it until it's time to hand over the baby?!**

February....

We were placing Our Guatemalan Baby, ASOSAP, into good, capable, loving hands - those of the Sagerts, sent by God, we firmly believe - and aided by our faithful Pokomchi ministry team. It was a time we had prayed for and dreamed about, and it had finally arrived!

BUT, we were not prepared for the turbulent, tearing-apart emotions - a tumbling, roiling turmoil of sorrow and celebration, of grieving and joy. We found ourselves wanting time to stand still and at the same time, wanting "Beam me up, Scotty, NOW!".

It was EXHAUSTING!

But at the same time, it was a life experience so very SPECIAL AND PRECIOUS, hard to put into words. The pain at parting with so many Pokomchi friends, we realized, reflected the depth of our friendship, a friendship forged over many years by sharing

our lives together - the good, the bad, and the ugly of our lives and theirs.

March....

Bill and Linda are resting and relaxing in the bosom of Linda's family in sunny California. We keep in touch with the gang in Guatemala by emails and phone.

And in Shawn Sagert's words, "Everything is in full swing down here!"

#### Rural Pastors' Bible Seminar

The bi-annual 2-week-long seminar is underway right now. Steve Baird and his teaching team from Michigan are conducting the 4<sup>th</sup> seminar. Before we left, it was eagerly awaited by the Pokomchi pastors and new participants were signing up.

#### The God's Story Project

We just received 3 exciting photos by email from Shawn, taken by Pastor Pedro. The photos showed 25 new Christians being baptized in a river. They accepted Christ after watching a Pokomchi God's Story DVD. But, here's the clincher! - the new Christians are from the Mayan Achi tribe, NOT Pokomchi. A leader in Pastor Pedro's church had taken the Pokomchi DVD to an Achi village and verbally translated bits and pieces as he showed it. And God's Spirit did the rest! What a mighty, creative, and often surprising God we serve!

Meanwhile, our two volunteer Pokomchi evangelists, Lazaro and Cristobal, are being trained by Dolores and Glenda to use the DVD in 8 in-depth teaching sessions. They are keen and dedicated and will be ready to "go forth" next month.

Olivia and Ofelia

They are on standby to start their nursing course in May. They have the opportunity to take the training sponsored by a Canadian organization, TULA Foundation. It is specifically designed for rural students to learn skills appropriate to the reality of rural health care. They then go back to their villages and help their own people. Actually, Roberto, the nurse working full-time at the health post in Pampacche graduated from the first class and is doing just that. This training was initiated only a few years ago in our town of San Cristobal and has met with such success that it is being expanded to more and more remote, needy areas of Guatemala.

Thank you again to all the generous donors of their scholarships!

#### Latrines and Teams

Our guys, Nicolas and Carlos, have been feverishly welding and fabricating latrines since the beginning of the year. They now have the first batch ready for the first team to install in the village of Wach Coob. We are excited that the first team will arrive already next month and that they are new to us, from Bellingham, WA. We always welcome new partners in the ministry.

#### Straddling On...

We are still straddling two different big steps in our lives - from being on-the-ground in Guatemala to being "up North", advocating and supporting the work in Guatemala, "from afar".

Linda describes her life right now as a "Flying Carpet" - going somewhere, but floating above the nitty-gritty ground below.

Bill describes his life as an "Unlit Candle" - ready for the match to be struck and let God's light shine somewhere else, somehow different than before.

We hope that each and every one of you will stay on board with us and the ministry of Hope of the Pokomchi, ASOSAP.

And we covet your prayers for ASOSAP, for the Sagerts, and for us. Thank you!

Patiently Pending,

*Bill and Linda*

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

In Canada

Hope of the Pokomchi  
Inc.

Box 1817 RR#1

Clearwater, BC V0E-1N0  
94945

Make check out to:

Clearwater Christian Church  
Inc.

In lower left of check, write: Hope of the Pokomchi -(either) Brierly  
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In U.S.A.

Hope of the Pokomchi,

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