

# **MOUNTAIN MILESTONES**

*News from Bill and Linda Brierly in Guatemala*

## **Eh, What's Up, Doc? - May 2010**

With all the changes in our lives over the last 2 months, we feel as if this famous question of Bugs Bunny's must be on the lips of each of you. We feel as if we have been out of touch with you A LONNNGGG TIME!

After leaving California, where our last newsletter was written, we made a bee-line for our home in Canada. This was the FIRST CHANGE in plans, as we had been scheduled to do a 2-month tour visiting supporting friends and churches before going home. The reason for the change - we were more worn out than we originally thought, and not up to the tour.

We arrived home in "PAUSE" mode, ready to rest and relax by the creek and touch bases with local friends and neighbors. Then the SECOND CHANGE happened. Bill puts it in a nutshell:

"Linda and I returned home to Canada with thoughts of rest and restoring our energy so we could fulfill our responsibilities to the mission in Guatemala. It did not work out that way. Linda had a very difficult time getting communications up from our cabin to the outside. The challenge was for both the telephone and internet service. Both have been achieved over a period of 5 weeks. For my part I came home to a cabin infected with dry rot in the foundation, 4 danger trees to be felled, bucked up and cleaned up, a well to be dug and pumped out for 2 weeks to draw the clean water in, plus having to dig ditches and holes for support posts for the internet satellite dish - THREE TIMES! By the end of the first five weeks home, I was having problems staying awake while working, which is not a good idea when working with a chain saw."

As we were preparing to speak in our church and then head out for 2 weeks to do the same in various parts of our province, the

THIRD CHANGE happened. The rapidly deteriorating health of Linda's mom caused us to postpone everything and drive back down to California, where we are now. I am writing this from my mother's home. She needs help 24/7 now and we will stay here for awhile. We take it a day at a time and pray for wisdom.

We recently received an email reply from a friend saying, "Who IS this, REALLY?"

That sure sums up how we are feeling lately - "Who ARE we?" "What are we SUPPOSED to be doing?" "WHERE are we supposed to be doing it?" "What should our priority REALLY be?"

### **Here is what we DO KNOW...**

These are the most important facts that we want to communicate to each of you right now:

- The ministry is alive and well in Guatemala; all the programs are in full swing and are being well-managed by the Sagerts and our Pokomchi team. (I added excerpts from the Sagert's May newsletter from the field.)
- We need your continued prayers and donations for the ministry to survive there. The greatest financial needs are for medicines for the health post and for the on-going running of the office.
- Bill and I have been working with our Canadian Board to prepare an information letter for you, outlining the changes in our responsibilities to the ministry and the finances we will need to accomplish them; we will send it out to you as soon as possible

SO, as you have been faithful over the last 10 years, we ask for your patient faithfulness to hang in there with the ministry. We ask you to prayerfully consider remaining a valued member of our extended ministry team.

**Hot off the Press from the Field**

Yay! The nursing program for Olivia and Ofelia finally got the GREEN LIGHT! The girls are scheduled to start classes on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Nicolas and Carlos are busily fabricating latrine sets in preparation for the next team to put together and install in the village of Wachcoob. The team will be one of our "old faithful"s from Mckinney, TX.

Up in the air but grounded in God,

*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 Support (or) Project

In U.S.A.

Hope of the Pokomchi,

610 Atherton Ave.

Novato, CA.

Make check out to:

Hope of the Pokomchi,

Excerpts from the Sagert's May Newsletter

"You shall also have a place outside the camp and go out there, and you shall have a spade among your tools, and it shall be when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and shall turn to cover up your excrement."

Deuteronomy 23:12,13 I don't suppose you've heard that read in church liturgy any time recently. Yet there it is - smack in the middle of God's Holy Law to the Israelites - instructions on just where and how to go to the loo! So what's that got to do with entering a covenant relationship with Jehovah?! All that Law which Moses wrote down had as much to do with how to worship God as how to treat one another as how to live in the physical environment. It addresses the proper care and feeding of animals, agricultural techniques, what to eat and not to eat, how to cook, personal hygiene, and even what to

do with number two. It was a whole package deal because God was, and is, deeply interested in all aspects of the lives of His people. Today, with the help of science, you and I understand very well what God has known all along: human sanitation is directly related to our physical health. That is simply not common knowledge among most of the people we're working with in rural Guatemala. They do not understand the connection between the state of their immediate environment and sickness and disease. And sickness and disease is rife. Pneumonia and diarrhea remain the two leading causes of death of children. Based on God's all-inclusive instructions to His people, we believe His "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11) are holistic in nature. For the Pokomchi people, the Gospel includes God's desire for them to exercise "dominion" over the earth and enjoy healthier lives. Latrine construction, then, has been one of the important ways Hope of the Pokomchi has tried to share the love of Jesus and help rural villagers move toward their God-given potential. In April we had a team from Bellingham, WA and Vanderhoof, BC come and help 20 families install proper outhouses in the community of Wachqoob (Watch-KOBE). A great time was had by all, and with the education and encouragement to follow, we're trusting God will use these clean new places to "sit down outside" as part of His purpose of bringing people to know Him.

*This month we're thanking God for...*

Felicia, a young woman who invited Jesus into her life after seeing the God's Story video which we presented during the latrine construction week. Bringing our friend, Caitlin Haberfellner, from Chilliwack to spend a couple months with us and learn all she can about Guatemala. Our many faithful supporters back home who continue to pray and give so that we can work here.

*And we're asking God for...*

His direction as we seek out new communities to work in.

Financial provision. Currently, the commitments we have cover less than half of our budgeted expenses. God continues to be faithful but we are also praying for an increase in our regular support. As well, we need to upgrade to a new used vehicle as soon as possible.