

MOUNTAIN MILESTONES

News from Bill and Linda Brierly

Triple Whammy! - August 2010

"Up in the air but grounded in God"...That's how we signed our May newsletter to you.

Now in August, after two tumultuous months, we can honestly describe ourselves as "up in the air and hanging on for dear life, BUT always grounded in God".

The Whammy's all happened in June, within 10 days of each other

- Whammy #1 - Shawn and Natalie Sagert, the God-sent, "perfect" family who we had been praying for and searching for, for over 2 years, QUIT!
- Whammy #2 - Bill, after 3 hours in the emergency room of the Sonoma, California hospital was diagnosed with very out of control DIABETES!
- Whammy #3 - On June 23rd, Linda's mother, who had always been the anchor and heart of our family, died.

OK... DEEP BREATH...

Where are we now and what's happening, in the wake of the Whammy's?

First of all, we are trying hard to stay grounded in God. We remember and believe the words of St. Paul in Romans 8:28,29 (Living Bible) -

“And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into His plans. For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him – and all along He knew who would – should become like His Son...”

The Ministry in Guatemala - ASOSAP

The Sagerts apparently resigned because their expectations and the reality weren't compatible.

Meanwhile our Pokomchi ministry team, headed by Glenda, is doing an excellent job of keeping all the programs and projects running smoothly. They have also hosted 2 North American teams in country, and they will host a third one later this month. The feedback from the 2 teams that were down there was very positive.

“Your staff was spot-on with everything. They really know what they're doing.”

Two intercultural “glitches” did occur, which have been addressed.

The two Pokomchi young ladies whom many of you are supporting through a scholarship, are happily working hard and doing well at nursing school.

Work in the new village of Wachcuz is going well. The families are working with us and our teams, toward getting water tanks built.

The God's Story project which had been in a lull is now picking up speed again.

Bill and Linda are in weekly contact with Glenda and her team.

Bill and the Diabetes

Since coming back to Canada in mid-July, Bill has been able to maintain a regular, stable daily regime of exercise and diet. Thankfully his blood sugars have stabilized and just in the last few days he has been able to reduce the dose of his daily oral medication. His goal is also to gain back the 15 lbs. he lost over the last several months. His energy is slowly improving.

Linda's Mom

What a precious blessing to be able to be with her for her last month! She died peacefully at home with the whole family present. Linda and Bill adopted her faithful 11-year-old cockapoo dog, Suzy, who has adapted very well to the backwoods of Canada.

What about the FUTURE?... Bill and Linda's and ASOSAP?

Good Question! That is still a Work in Process. We try to keep tuned into God for each next step. We remember that He is in Control.

However, here is what we DO know -

- Although Bill and Linda have been "frittering away", the ministry of ASOSAP is growing and thriving.
- Two years ago Rick, a member of our home church spoke a prophetic word, which appears may now be coming into fruition: "God is pleased with the work of ASOSAP and it will continue to thrive, but NOT through Bill and Linda; it will thrive through the Pokomchi people themselves."

What Activities can you expect for the remainder of 2010?

As vital members of the ministry team, through your interest, teams, prayers, and financial support, it's important that we keep you informed -

Bill and Linda

- August 13-16: We will travel to 3 destinations in British Columbia, speaking, visiting, and informing supporting churches and folks
- September 1-30: Linda will travel to Texas, Oklahoma, and Guatemala; she will attend the USA Hope of the Pokomchi, Inc. board meeting in Texas, besides speaking in churches and with supporters; in Guatemala, she will meet with Glenda and her staff to plan for the rest of 2010 and for 2011; she will also help them host a team from Oklahoma.
- October 1-7: Bill and Linda will speak and visit on Salt Spring Island, BC, and the Lower Mainland of BC

Glenda and the Team in Guatemala

- August - They will host a team from De Paul University, Chicago
- September - A team from Oklahoma
- October - Bible Seminar (not confirmed yet) for 24 Pokomchi pastors for 2 weeks
- November - Dr. Michael to continue his work with nurse Roberto in the Health Post, 2 weeks
- The on-going in-country programs that they manage are:
 1. Scholarships - 4
 2. Community Education - twice weekly
 3. Grupo Ana - monthly village women's and children's Bible Fellowship in Nisnic
 4. Health Post
 5. God's Story
 6. Construction Projects - latrines and water tanks
 7. Every Monday - devotions and prayer time
 8. Every Wednesday - Fasting and Prayer

What are our Financial Needs for the remainder of 2010?

We no longer need help with our daily living expenses. The work that we continue to do for the ministry we do as volunteers.

However, we DO need the expenses of the Promotion and Relationship-building trips covered. Our personal financial resources are not enough to cover these.

For the three trips that we will be doing the rest of 2010, the expenses come to \$3,500.

We respectfully ask you to prayerfully consider helping cover these expenses.

The procedure for donating is at the bottom of this newsletter. We thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

We'll send you more news once Linda is back from the September trip. We covet your prayers during this challenging time of on-going transition. Let's see how God's perfect plan continues to unfold for ASOSAP!

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:

In U.S.A.

Hope of the Pokomchi,

610 Atherton Ave.

Novato, CA.

Make check out to:

Clearwater Christian Church
Inc.

Hope of the Pokomchi,

In lower left of check, write: Hope of the Pokomchi -(either) Brierly Support
(or) Project