

MOUNTAIN MILESTONES

News from Bill and Linda Brierly

Moved to Poetry - October, 2010

I faced the 5-week ministry trip with trepidation. I was tired, worn out, and I just wanted to stay home! But I knew it had to be done and this poem on my fridge inspired me:

"I am only one, but I AM one; I cannot do everything, but I CAN do something; and what I can do I should do, and by the grace of God, I WILL do."

My journey started unceremoniously schlepping big suitcases on the Greyhound bus to Vancouver to catch the plane - and, then, God and His grace went into action!

"The world is so empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers, and cities, but to know someone here and there who thinks and feels with us, and who, though distant, is close to us in spirit, this makes the earth for us an inhabited garden." Goethe

A beautiful garden inhabited by caring, gracious people who love the Lord and who hunger to reach out to those less fortunate - that is where I had the great privilege to spend September and the beginning of October, "wandering" through Texas, Oklahoma, Guatemala, and Canada's southern BC. God's hand was with me every step of the way. And I experienced God at work in each home, church, and friendship that I encountered.

He sent the gift of Kelly to accompany me on the drive to Oklahoma. He sent the gift of Donna to accompany me to Guatemala. While there, He sent the gift of a team from Oklahoma, who inspired me with their enthusiasm for the Lord and for reaching out to the Pokomchi people. And, last but not least, He sent the gift of Bill and our puppy dogs to complete the last leg of the journey in BC.

As Hanna prayed in the Bible (The Message): "I'm bursting with God-news! I'm walking on air!"

So what news do I bring back? How IS God's perfect plan unfolding for ASOSAP?

"God brings poverty and God brings wealth, He lowers, He also lifts up. He puts poor people on their feet again; He rekindles burnt-out lives with fresh hope, restoring dignity and respect to their lives – a place in the sun!" 1 Samuel 2:8, 9 The Message

#1: The ministry in Guatemala will from now on be run by Glenda and her Pokomchi team. They are doing the job very well and are committed to carry on God's work with their own people. They have reached their "place in the sun" after 10 years with Bill and me working alongside them. The huge impact of this is just starting to dawn on us! Now the Pokomchi themselves are restoring dignity and respect, giving hope, to their own people. Bill and I succeeded in working ourselves out of a job and didn't realize it at first!

#2: I encountered an enthusiastic and strong commitment in North America to continue to partner with the ministry – through teams, financial, technical, and prayer support.

New churches and individuals have come on board, including our first team from BC.

#3: Bill and I are adjusting to our new international role with the ministry- setting up systems of communication and reporting, and being available to the Guatemalan team as consultants and advisors. Our field trips to Guatemala in 2011 will be in March and October. We have introduced a new type of team – a Vision Trip. This is intended for those who wish to have an on-site overview of the ministry in Guatemala, and will be led by us on our bi-annual trips.

#4: We have new email addresses for ministry business:

- USA - asosap.usa@gmail.com
- Canada - asosapcanada@gmail.com

Our lbbrierpatch email address remains for personal correspondence.

#5: Donations are still needed and welcomed – for our expenses when traveling for the ministry, and for the expenses of the ministry in Guatemala. Budgets for 2011 will be completed by the end of November. Then we can give you the exact financial needs.

In closing, I leave you with a poem that I believe sums up God's heart for Hope of the Pokomchi:

"Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend." Camus

We invite you to continue to walk beside us and the Pokomchi people.

Sincerely,

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,