

# MOUNTAIN MILESTONES June 2013 part 1

---

## RISKING

To laugh is to **RISK**

Appearing the fool, to weep is to **RISK**

To reach out for another is to **RISK** involvement,

To expose feelings is to **RISK** exposing your true self,

To place your ideas, your dreams before the crowd is to **RISK** their loss,

To love is to **RISK** being loved in return,

To live is to **RISK** dying,

To hope is to **RISK** failure.

**ONLY A PERSON WHO RISKS IS FREE.**

Author Anonymous

- **March 1493:** Christopher Columbus returned from his voyage, having discovered the New World ... He thought he was close to Japan / China.
- **March 1517:** Bernal Diaz discovered the Yucatan Mexico. For this discovery he was awarded land in a part of Guatemala called Santa de los Cabarellos, known today as Antigua, Guatemala.
- **March 1836:** Mexican soldiers in the predawn, under the command of General Santa Anna attacked the walls of the Alamo Compound. By sunrise the battle had ended and General Santa Anna entered the Alamo Compound to survey the scene of his victory.
- **March 2013:** a group of Canadians reached out to others, **RISKING** involvement, embracing **FREEDOM**.

A team of intrepid adventurers from the North Thompson Valley, Salt Spring Island, and Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan risked the unknown, the comfort and security of home, and reached out to the Mayan people group called Pokomchi in the highlands of Guatemala.

Each team that comes brings its own sense of identity, character, and energy. Without fail the team members bring and share joy and goodwill demonstrated under difficult base camp conditions - isolation (no phones or emails,) surrounded by the Pokomchi.

They leave behind their English language and many are again three-year- olds communicating though sign language or interpreter. Home fades into the background. Responsibilities, commitments, and concerns are temporally left behind.

## MOUNTAIN MILESTONES June 2013 part 1

---

For a brief 6 days in base camp and village involvement, everyone present, experiences the power of **UNITY, JOY, AND THE GIFT OF GIVING**.

Each person looks and sees their neighbor, not only with different colored skin, but in a different light. They see beauty, kindness, tolerance, and forgiveness.

The one word that each person experiences and demonstrates is **LOVE!!**

At the Guatemala airport saying, " Adios!" to all my friends, new and old, I, Bill, experience " team withdrawal". I search for an answer. I wonder why, back at home, we cannot enjoy the unity, the bond, the goodness, the **LOVE** we shared at base camp in the village with each other and with the Pokomchi?

Back home, what message do our lives of **BUSY-NESS** tell others? Back home, we are addicted to modern technology that saves us **TIME!! Time to do what?!! TO BE MORE BUSY?!!**

### EDGE OF THE LEDGE

Have you ever stood on the edge of a ledge, wondering which way to go,

There are rules and laws and commitments made and I want to honor them true.

But my eyes have seen, and my heart it seems is pounding a message of need,

I'm simply one man you must understand, so down on my knees I go.

**You are my Lord, my God, and my King, and my allegiance is only to You.**

I pray to You, God, and I listen so hard, what is it You want me to do?

There is so much Greed, Hunger and Need, Injustice, Intolerance and Shame.

I hold out my hand for only You understand, as I stand on that edge of the ledge in my mind

Wondering which way to go.

By Bill Brierly

### Thought for the Month:

To change our world at home or far away - All it takes is all you've got!

## MOUNTAIN MILESTONES June 2013 part 2

---

### A Thumbnail Sketch of our Last Six Months

#### December 2012

- Khiara Estela was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> to Dolores and her husband, Chino

#### January 2013

- Claudia, an auxiliary nurse, joined the ASOSAP family, working with Conzuelo
- Dr. Michael did his 2-week medical outreach to Guatemala
- Bill and Linda started their mission trip on January 18<sup>th</sup>, attending a fund-raising concert for the Birchwood Presbyterian Church Guatemala team, in Bellingham, WA.; they then drove on down to California to spend time with Linda's family

#### February 2013

- Glenda met Bill and Linda in Oklahoma for a 2-week mission trip in Oklahoma and Texas - lots of good, productive fellowship time, and important networking was done
- On the 21<sup>st</sup>, the 3 of them flew to Guatemala
- Our Health Post in Pampacche - Our nurse Roberto was suddenly removed from his position there by the Ministry of Health and posted in another community; this upset everyone and caused much confusion and anxiety
- Ministry of Health proposed that ASOSAP open a new health post in a very needy area, called Rosario Italia, in which not only Pokomchi live, but also Achi and Ladino

#### March 2013

- Teams that we hosted -
  1. Oklahoma Bible Seminar combined with a 4-person medical outreach from Oklahoma
  2. Canadian Team from 4 different churches, including 10 people from Bill and Linda's home town of Clearwater
- Number of our chronic patients reached a total of 60

#### April

- Hosted a new team from Bellingham, WA. - a group of home-schooled teens and adult chaperons
- Agriculture Opportunity - Our scholarship student, Pablo, initiated a hands-on, field training to complement his academic studies; this was made possible through coordination with a grass-roots organization called FUNDAMARCOS, base in the state of Baja Verapaz; this training will carry on until the end of the year

## MOUNTAIN MILESTONES June 2013 part 2

---

- Bill and Linda left Guatemala on the 21<sup>st</sup>, spent a few days in California preparing for the Hope of the Pokomchi, Inc. annual board meeting, then drove to Bellingham, WA. where the board meeting took place at the end of April

### May 2013

- Bill and Linda returned home and the Canadian annual board meeting was held on the 13th
- Health Post in Pampacche - ASOSAP hired a nurse who is now working there full time in place of Roberto
- New Health Post in Rosario Italia - steps are being taken to upgrade the existing small health building and to post a full-time nurse there
- Agriculture - Pablo has started a pilot project with a group of farmers in Cerro Verde, applying what he is learning in his training
- ASOSAP was invited by a Guatemalan donor organization called Fundacion Gutierrez to apply for one of 3 grants; they put in their application and are now anxiously awaiting further word

### June 2013

- Bill left Canada on the 7<sup>th</sup> to accompany a team from McKinney, TX.; they are all in-country at this writing; Bill will return home on June 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Pokomchi Perspectives**

Hello. **My name is Arturo Moran and I am 21 years old.** I got epilepsy when I was 11 years old, but I was never given medicine. I suffered from convulsions sometimes every day, and at least once a week, always banging myself up. Then 5 years ago, ASOSAP and a doctor examined me and started giving me medicine. Since then everything has changed. Now I can go to work without worrying about what might happen to me out in the field. I thank God for sending ASOSAP here, because they help us a lot with the medicines.

Hello. **My name is Maria Conzuelo Xona Cojoc.** I am pleased to greet you personally as member of ASOSAP. I work as the Health Educator. My function is to educate the village women to make changes in their lives so that they and their families have a better quality of life, which they really need. We of ASOSAP are indigenous people who reach out to families of our own people who need the help. Even though we are a small organization, we have brought to needy families many smiles, happiness, and changes which we have achieved with all our energy and resources. What is our goal for the future? We want to continue to reach out to those families who live in remote areas and who live in extreme poverty, so that they can make positive changes in their lives. Thank you for partnering with us in all that we are doing, for coming along side us and for supporting us in one way or another. This way ASOSAP can keep moving forward. May God richly bless you. Thank you.