

ISSUE
05

NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER
2010

OUR BI-MONTHLY
JOURNAL FROM
ANTIGUA,
GUATEMALA

Mission Erickson

www.missionerickson.com

¡Feliz Navidad!

Christmas is a time of celebration in Guatemala, but it is not the same as you may be used to in the US. Christmas trees are replaced with hand-crafted nativity sets, turkey or ham is substituted with tamales and caroling is ousted by fireworks.

Jesus is still at the center of Christmas, but our celebrations may look a bit different this year. Follow us on Facebook in order to track our holiday festivities here in Antigua.



For your convenience, we have included our family photo right here on the front page so that you can cut it out and place it on your refrigerator between the cotton ball snow man and the "mostly A" report card. We want to remind you to keep on praying for us and if you go to the fridge as often we do, we are sure that you will be praying for us on a very regular basis.

Merry Christmas!



Todd and Maureen Erickson

37a Calle del Espiritu Santo
Casa #36
Antigua, Guatemala
(703)286-7041

todd@servants4him.org
maureen@servants4him.org

www.missionerickson.com

Dear Friends,

Our Christmas morning will be spent here in Antigua, Guatemala and although we will be far from our family, we cannot imagine being any other place in the world.

Since moving here 4 months ago, we have had extraordinary opportunities to see God working and to be a part of that work. We have met and gotten to know some of the poorest and yet kindest people in the world. We have befriended other rookie missionaries and have been led by people who have served in this mission field for decades.

Our transition has not been easy here, but it has been fulfilling. God has confirmed our calling and has helped us adapt as a family. There are a few local families here who challenge us by the way that they live in the midst of poverty. It is in that challenge that we are seeing God change us and direct us.

Last weekend, we invited one such family to our home for dinner. This family enjoyed being in our home, but more than that, we enjoyed listening to their stories (en Español). Ana Julia is the loving mom to 5 children. Some are her own and some are “adopted” off of the street. She did not have room in her home for these kids when she invited them to a better life. She did not even have food in her kitchen to feed them. What she did have was a willingness to love “the least of these”.

The Servants 4 Him team has helped Ana Julia add another level to her cinder block home in El Tizate, we have walked beside her and helped her to raise these kids, and we have tried to represent Jesus to this beautiful Guatemalan family.



Our best Christmas gift this year is getting to be a part of the S4H team as we reach out to real families here in Central America!

*Thankful for your support of our ministry,
Todd, Maureen, Katey, Clay and Emily*

A Few Christmas List Caveats

When I was a kid, the Sears Wishbook would land on my front porch at the beginning of December and that day I would immediately begin the work on my extensive Christmas wish list...

The list displayed here on the left was much easier to put together because God has been so gracious to us in our move this year and our needs, although big, are small in number and very specific!

**Please don't feel burdened at all by our list, but please pray that God "will supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory!"

And if He happens to move you to give, the process is really easy...just go to www.servants4him.org and click the donation tab. Then choose us from the drop-down menu. Thanks!

-Todd

Our list for "Santa"...



1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
2. Prayers for our safety and for fruitful ministry!

"The faithful prayer of the righteous accomplishes mucho!"

3. ** A few more months of Language School

School has been great for us but we need to keep at it for a few more months in order to be effective in ministry. It costs us \$1320 for both Mo and I to study 4 hours a day for one month!

4. ** Money towards a vehicle!

A friend just sold our Honda Pilot back in Virginia, and even with that sale, we need to increase our budget in order to purchase a vehicle here (preferably a 4-door truck or a van) to get us and teams back and forth to the nearby villages.

We'd love any help you can send our way!

5. People visiting us here in the "land of Eternal Spring".
(We'll leave a light on for you!)

**'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the casa,
Not a creature was stirring ¡Caramba! ¿Que Pasa?
Los Niños were tucked away in their camas,
Some in long underwear, some in pijamas.**

**While hanging the stockings with mucho cuidado,
In hopes that old Santa would feel obligado,
To bring all children, both buenos and malos,
A nice batch of dulces and other regalos.**

**Outside in the yard there arose un gran grito,
and I jumped to my feet like a frightened cabrito.
I ran to the window and looked out afuera,
And who in the world do you think that it era?**

**Saint Nick in a sleigh and a big red sombrero,
Came dashing along like a loco bombero.
And pulling his sleigh instead of venados,
Were eight little burros approaching volando.**

**I watched as they came and this quaint little hombre,
Was shouting and whistling and calling by nombre:
“Ay Pancho, ay Pepe, ay Cuco, ay Beto,
ay Chato, ay Chopo, Maruco y Nieto!”**

**Then standing erect with his hands on his poncho,
He flew to the top of our very own techo,
With his round little belly like a bowl of jalea,
He struggled to squeeze down our old chimenea.**

**Then huffing and puffing at last in our sala,
With soot smeared all over his red suit de gala,
He filled all the stockings with lively regalos,
None for the niños that had been very malos.**

**Then chuckling aloud, seeming very contento,
He turned like a flash and was gone como el viento,
And I heard him exclaim, ye ¡esto es verdad!
Merry Christmas to all, ¡y Feliz Navidad!**

A Spanglish Christmas

This version of Twas the Night Before Christmas is not our original work, but we are happy to report that we can understand every word of this humorous Spanglish poem...



www.servants4him.org

PO Box 597
Hamilton, Virginia
20159