

Staying Connected...

Although there is a great distance between you and Guatemala, we are working hard to keep you connected.

Every month we'll send you either a Mission Erickson newsletter like this one or we'll send you a video message. If you've missed us one month, you can always catch up through missionerickson.com.

If you still want more, then friend us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. We'll share with you all the daily details there...

The Stork Visits Guatemala

On a beautiful Spring day in Guatemala Carolina Concepcion was born as the 7th child of a family living in the Central Highlands of Guatemala.



Just days before her birth, a S4H team from Alabama was working feverishly preparing her new home. Two bedrooms were being painted pink, the kitchen yellow, the hallway blue and the bathroom a neon green. The team had purchased oil-based paint and our hope was that the fumes would subside before the arrival day.

Now, whether or not the air cleared, Carolina was on her way and her family was excited about her arrival!

Carolina's family is a family that Servants 4 Him has been reaching out to and we wanted to do everything we could to help establish this household as this new baby arrives. Carol Kendall, who is one of the founding missionaries on the S4H team, had spent time with Carolina's mom, Maria, and had helped to coordinate different projects in and around their home.

So, as a way to honor Carol's leadership and work, Maria chose the name Carolina, the Guatemalan version of Carol. As is the case with many cultures, names are important here in Guatemala and this child's name tells a story.

Our hope is that as Carolina grows up and asks about the history of her name, she will be told of the work of the Servants 4 Him team and how it was all done in the matchless name of Jesus.

The March/April Highlight Reel

We've had a great Spring here in Antigua, Guatemala and we wanted to bring you up to speed on the highlights...



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-In March we hosted a team from Shiloh Baptist Church in Alabama and after a week of installing bunk beds, water filters and stoves, light construction and kid ministry activities we sent them home exhausted but fulfilled.



-Mo and the kids are being tutored in Spanish two afternoons a week while Todd continues to stick it out at Christian Spanish Academy. We are all progressing poco a poco!



-After 8 months of being here without a car we have purchased a 2005 Hyundai Terracan and are now fully mobile! Thanks to those of you who helped with this purchase.

-Maureen is using her teaching gifts in Santiago Zamora as she spends her Tuesday afternoons tutoring a family of seven in both English and math. We're pursuing the challenge to "Do for one, what you want to do for everyone."

-Todd's mom and niece were here for Semana Santa (see page 4) and we are looking forward to the many other friends and family that will be here as we head into the summer. Make your reservations early!



-The highlight of our Easter week was when Mo and the kids stayed out all night with our church's youth group on Thursday ministering to the crowds of people on the streets of Antigua with drama and through personal conversations.

-Our team season kicks off in June and we look forward to the extra work we can get done when a group of 20 shows up at the Guatemala City airport.

-Check out **www.missionerickson.com** to keep up to date with more details...

Contentment:

(n.) satisfaction; ease of mind

On a regular basis, we travel to the nearby pueblo of El Tizate. At the beginning of a recent visit, we stopped to visit with “Juan” out on the sidewalk. Our purpose in El Tizate that day was to meet with the mom of a brand new baby (*see page 1*) but God decided to use this trip as an opportunity to teach us about the ever-elusive character trait: contentment.

Juan was ecstatic to see us and as he ran up he was carrying a plastic bag. Not a big deal to us, but a very big deal to him. You see, that thin plastic bag contained his treasures and he wanted to show us what he had. Juan’s treasures included bottle caps, pieces of plastic, a bead bracelet, and a few other items that we would typically call trash. Juan was not only content with what he had, he was excited!

Paul encourages us by his own example in his letter to the Philippians:

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.
Philippians 4:12

Juan certainly lives in “want” from a North American perspective, which makes his example of humble joy a challenge to each of us. Am I content with my plastic bag of “stuff” or do I think I need more? How about you?

Bottom line is: it doesn’t matter if you live in Guatemala or in the richest county in the US, we all need to learn this secret that Paul and Juan have obviously already mastered.



The Mission Erickson Team...

We get to be here serving in Guatemala because there are three groups of people who have decided to support us in our work here.

1. Prayer Team

These are people whose work is indispensable and who keep us safe, protected and connected with the One who called us here.

2. Support Team

These people utilize their gift of giving to make it possible for us to serve here. This giving is essential for our life and work here.

3. Encouragement Team

The uplifting words of this team keep us going. Just the right word at the appropriate time can make all the difference.

Semana Santa

Easter week is a big deal here in Antigua, Guatemala. Over 100,000 visitors descend on this small town of 10,000.

They come from all over Central America to see the day-long processions, to participate in the many street festivals, and to see the beautifully detailed alfombras (rugs) lining the procession routes.

We, along with Todd's mom and niece, have survived (and enjoyed) our first Semana Santa, an incredible week-long event that is designed to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus.



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