

Hope to See you in September...

August 30, 2011 will mark the one year anniversary of our move to Antigua, Guatemala and on that day we will celebrate back in Virginia.

After a very busy “team season” (p. 3) we will head back to Virginia to reconnect with family and friends and personally update many of you who serve as a part of our support team. The plan is to be in the Old Dominion from August 28th through September 27th and we’d love to see you then.

Just send us an email to let us know how we can serve you or your church and we’ll coordinate our schedules together.

“Always Room for One More!”

It does not matter if it is a crowded “chicken bus”, an old pickup, or a rickety lunch table in the middle of a village, the often-heard Guatemalan phrase “There’s always room for one more!” applies. This phrase embodies the hospitality of the people of Guatemala and has served as an example to us.

As a part of our normal week, we get to visit friends who live in small pueblos near our home in Antigua. There are weeks when we have a definite purpose for our visit and there are weeks when we just show up. Every week, however, we are invited in and warmly welcomed.

We have been fed delicious “tipico” food by families who are barely scraping by financially and our kids are often given flowers or vegetables from a garden or something woven by one of the family members. There are days when we walk in feeling good about ourselves and our attempts to serve these friends, but that attitude routinely changes when we are given more (proportionally) than we have given ourselves.

Our new friends in Guatemala serve as examples for us. Examples of generosity, hospitality and selflessness in the midst of poverty. I’m thankful that we get to serve in this place but am struck by how much more we gain as we step out to serve.

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” -Philippians 2:5-7



Where Does the Money Go?



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We, as a family of five, get to serve in Guatemala with Servants 4 Him because of the generous giving of individuals and churches. There are people who give out of their abundance, people who give because of their friendship with us, and people who give because they think globally and want to make an investment.

No matter the motivation or financial status of our support team members, the bottom line is that we are here because you give. Your giving essentially serves as our salary.

Here is how it works:

-Annually the Servants 4 Him Board approves S4H's budget which includes our salary.

-You give (regularly!) by sending a check or through Paypal, Google, Network for Good or through your online banking. Your check is deposited and accredited to our S4H account.

-We receive a set salary every month which comes out of our S4H account.

-If the balance is low in our account, then our monthly salary figure could drop.

If there is a surplus, then our salary stays the same and those additional monies can be set aside for more lean times or perhaps to help fund a ministry project (upon board approval).

It's a relatively simple process, but we have found that many people were unaware of "where the money goes".

If our giving is really high one month, we are (sadly) not ordering surf and turf. Our salary remains constant and this is a good process because of the board's involvement and accountability.

Because of your generosity, we have had a solid first year here "on the field" and have been able to purchase a car as well as build up a small surplus.

Thanks for your generous help in getting us here and keeping us here to represent Jesus as we serve the people of Guatemala.

-Todd and Maureen

Look who's coming to help...



June

9
16-26
26-July 5

Scott Andersen, our S4H intern arrives!
Bramblett-Johnson Family
Destiny Church, Leesburg Team



July

4-11
21-31

Stratton Family
Purcellville Baptist
Church Team

August

4-14
15-22
28

Austin Family
Destiny Church, Winchester Team
We head back to Virginia for the month
of September...



Please Keep Praying
for Us...

Spiritual Growth

We desperately need to keep our eyes on the One who has called us.

Safety

Guatemala continues to be one of the more dangerous countries in Central America.

Continued Support

Our page 2 article tells you just how important this is.

Our Spanish

We are progressing poco a poco.

Summer Teams

The teams listed on the left will help the work here to progress farther and faster.

Homeschooling

In the midst of everything else, school is still going on for Katey, Clay and Emily. Pray for focus.

Postcards...



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, follow us on Twitter or get more details through our blog posts on www.missionerickson.com.



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