

Our Dear Brothers & Sisters and Friends,
We pray that October has been as much a blessing to you as it has been to us.

2012 October

Rejoicing in New Beginnings

We were able to transport and participate in a very special event - the baptism of a special friend. Jessica Saenz Garcia, the daughter of Lidio and Maritza who lead the congregation at San Isidro, was baptized into Jesus Christ by her father in the Rio Talgua on Oct. 7th. We rejoice with our new sister, the family, and that community.



Chili Lunch and Sachets

In an attempt to just have fun and to socialize, with no business agenda or exchange of information planned, Joanne invited all of the ladies connected to San Isidro to a lunch and craft time. On the last Saturday of Sept. she cooked Texas chili for all of the women in both the church and community of San Isidro. She and Alba Rosa served rice and the chili, with mantequilla (a type of white sour cream) and tortilla chips, to 24 women and unnumbered hangers-on. Then Joanne showed the ladies how to make fragrant sachets with the dried flowers and thin fabrics that our daughter,



Lydia, had purchased with this project in mind. We already knew that the sachets were popular because Joanne gave a few as gifts last year and ladies asked if we had more. The ladies loved the projects and the four fragrance oils they could add to their dried flowers, and several made a point of finding Joanne to show her their sachet when they had finished. The ladies were very creative with their combinations of fabrics and ribbon colors.

White Clay

Towards the beginning of the month Joanne took some of the community folks to hunt for white clay that will be used to finish the outside layer on the community oven project in San Isidro. It was interesting to observe the process, because in the states most of us would not know where to look for the various, special building materials

we need. The men knew which road to travel on as they searched the hillocks for the white clay, and in the area where they decided to dig the clay it was apparent that many others had done likewise. They dug it from the side of a sharp incline with a dibble, the same tool they use for planting corn, and the bag of clay was so heavy it took all three men to lift it into the bed of the truck. While they were digging and filling the bag many people passed on the road and no one seemed the least bit surprised or concerned that they were digging on the side of the road. In fact, in retrospect it seems a bit commonplace to see people gathering different types of materials on the sides of roads or river beds throughout the country.



Truck Blessings: A family trip

Alba Rosa asked if Joanne might be able to take her and two siblings up to visit their grandmother

who has been very ill, and if so what she would charge them. Joanne said she would take anyone who wanted to go and of course would not charge them anything. So on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 13, four other siblings and most of their children, 24 family members, crowded into every space of our truck; 12 inside and 12 in the bed, for the hour long trip up the mountain. Maria Victoria was not expecting them and was thoroughly surprised and pleased with their 3-hour visit. Another two sisters live in the area so they had a large family gathering. The visit was such a blessing to



so many people that Joanne offered to take them up again at the end of November for the grandmother's 84th birthday. This time we will provide lunch and a birthday cake for them all, as well as copies of the photos taken during the first trip. Sometimes it is so easy to be such a great blessing to so many people with so little effort and we continue to praise and thank God for the ability He has given us to do so here in Honduras.

Computer Classes

Dwight's classes at Por Los Niños are finishing up with finals from the 5th to the 9th of November. He is very proud of what the students have learned and is already making plans for next year.

This photo is of two of the 6th graders, Kevin and Marcos, working on their touch-typing skills. The other photo is of another class Dwight has with some older students. Two of the four students had never touched a computer before, while the other two just had very

limited exposure to them. One of the more challenging aspects of computers for them is moving the mouse in an accurate and precise manner, so they get to practice that during every class period.

Surprising a Friend

Last week a missionary friend who lives in Guaimaca called and asked Joanne to make an excuse for a trip to Tegucigalpa and to invite her along so that she could pick up her daughter at the airport to surprise her husband. So on Friday, Oct. 19, Joanne took the 6 am bus and got off in Guaimaca where Vicki met her and they went the remaining hour in Vicki's car. After picking Jamie up at the airport they ran several other errands in Tegucigalpa for both families and Joanne was on the last direct bus from Tegucigalpa that left at 5pm. It was a long, busy day, but was also very productive as she found a turkey for Thanksgiving and Lysol spray, which we do not have in Catacamas, for both mold and germs. It was also nice to take a break from the daily grind of coursework and community issues.



Change of Address

Please remember to change our address to the following address for our 501(c)(3). When you send your checks in the future, please send them to:

The Least of These – Honduras
405 E. Dodge St.
Bryan, TX 77803

Thank you to all those of you who have already made the change. If you have any questions about the change of donation locations please do not hesitate to ask.

Prayers:

Please pray about the congregation that is considering the oversight of our ministry here in Honduras. Also please pray that Joanne can continue to move forward with her dissertation and not become discouraged or overwhelmed with the mountain of work and study ahead of her. And please pray for the shipment container that we are in the final stages of arranging through Healing Hands, International in Nashville, TN. They are the same organization that sent our first boxes to Honduras in 2008. Pray for the end of the school year and the activities we will be undertaking

during that time, especially this November.

Thank you all for the blessing you have been to us and to all those here in Catacamas, Olancho, Honduras.

We love you, Dwight & Joanne Tomkins

Living in Honduras - Learning about Termites

Well, one thing is for sure; termites in Honduras are not the same as they are in the states. On the other hand, perhaps they are the same and they are just better controlled in the states because of precautions taken at the manufacture stage of building. We have already had three pieces of furniture infested with the critters and have learned a lot about termites that live underground and make tunnels along the seam between wall and floor to find any piece of wood they can to attack. We have also learned that a combination of diesel fuel and salt is the recommended treatment to stop infestations, though one preacher told us that once they are in your house you cannot get rid of them and might as well invite them in and accept them. Joanne is too stubborn for that and has made it a goal to clear out each room one at a time, to treat all seams between floors and walls, and to treat all wood with diesel. The leaf cutter ants that have been stripping trees and bushes in our yard in one night for the past four years are a topic for another day....

Container Alert

Mission Lazarus, which is located in Choluteca, Honduras, has graciously agreed to assist us in moving our container items within their shipment that will leave Nashville before the end of November. If you have anything you would like to share with the people with whom we work in Honduras or with us, please get it to Lydia (Tomkins) Reed, or to Jessica (Tomkins) Carter **before Wed. October 31st**. Since Dwight has had three laptops in the house lab die in the last 6 months he is looking for used laptops. We are always looking for computer equipment, used cameras, cell phones (with chargers) that can accept a SIM card, soaps, shampoos, toothbrushing supplies, and school and craft materials. We are very appreciative that the Pine Street church of Christ in Vivian, LA is sending boxes of used clothing to two different communities in Catacamas, and that a Caterpillars and Butterflies group at the A&M church of Christ has prepared 61 filled backpacks to send to school students here.