

Our Dear Brothers & Sisters and Friends,

2013 May

It has been another incredibly busy month in ministry to God's glory here in Catacamas, Honduras. We thank God often for the many works and services He permits us to be a part of to further His kingdom.

Oklahoma!

On May 6th we had the pleasure of hosting a group of 19 nursing students from Oklahoma Christian University at our home for a spaghetti dinner. On both Tuesday and Thursday evenings the OC group returned the blessing by helping with various San Isidro projects. They treated all of the wood for a future playground with diesel to protect against termites, threaded rebar through 30' chain link fencing to secure it to the fence frames, picked up all of the trash in the church property, finished the painting of the church classroom building, loaded and unloaded a truck bed of dirt for the playground leveling, and began the long trenches for the water lines running from the well to the water tank. It was fun to see the local teenage boys pitch in to help with the trenching, when they had not done so previous to the arrival of the pretty girls and have not returned to complete the task since.



We found out about the group from the daughter-in-law of one of our longest time friends and supporters, Flowayne Drew. Shelly's daughter and Flowayne's granddaughter, Marian, was one of the students. It was very special to have her with us. Another interesting side-note was that when Joanne picked up the group to come to our house, she heard a familiar Texas voice. It belonged to Ivan Noffske, an old running buddy of our son, a determined ping-pong opponent of Dwight, and the young man who took our youngest daughter to Sr. Prom. He is a pre-med student at OC and came with the group to get some experience. It was a surprise to all of us. He just knew the group was going to eat with some missionaries and we didn't have any idea he was here.

Updates to the In-house Computer Lab

Dwight was pleased that the group from OC brought down two laptops donated by David Finch at the South Baton Rouge church of Christ. They replaced two of the three laptops that have died in the last year. These computers have turned out to be the best computers in the lab. And in one of those strange coincidences, Janda (nee Harlow), the mother of Ivan mentioned in the paragraph above, grew up at the South Baton Rouge church.

Dwight also purchased an Automatic Voltage Regulator to see if that would enhance the life of the equipment in the lab. While he had battery backups to protect the computers, they would alarm when the voltage was poor and quickly died. The AVR's are much less expensive and will help protect both the battery backups and the equipment. So far the AVR seems to be doing a very good job.

Last Class for Joanne's Doctorate

The biggest news of this month is that Joanne has finished her final class, entitled Design and Evaluations of Community Intervention Trials, through Walden University and has completed all of the academic requirements with a 4.0! In addition, the first three chapters of her dissertation, called the Proposal, have been approved by her dissertation Chair and second committee member so that it is now in the hands of the University Research Reviewer (URR) who must also verify the need for the study, the logic of the study approach, and the formatting of the research and the document itself before she can do any real research. This Proposal is 108 pages long and has taken her 9 months to complete to the satisfaction of her Chair. The URR can request revisions or else sign off on it. But in either case Joanne is heading into the next phase of her dissertation process; the research that will be the basis of her scientific contribution to the field of public health. More on that as it develops.

Baxter Seminar

The second weekend in May, Dwight made his annual trip to the Baxter seminar in Tegucigalpa. Unlike in years past, Dwight traveled without several other preachers accompanying him. Many had previous obligations, others could not afford to attend, and still others already had a way there. The seminar was well worth the time. Unfortunately, the

new president of Baxter and his wife, Steve and Dianna Teel, were sick and unable to attend much of the seminar. Dwight has noticed that through the years that the presenters have learned to speak Spanish better.

Joanne's Newest Relaxation

Joanne feels especially blessed this month because she has taken on a new project that is very near and dear to her. She is assisting another missionary in catching up a few years' worth of back logged bookkeeping, which Joanne has always enjoyed doing. She has spent over 50 hours this month getting the bookkeeping all sorted, organized, and logged onto spreadsheets, not counting two special trips to Tegucigalpa to meet with the missionary. This week she has agreed to meet with another missionary couple who live and work in Tegucigalpa to help with their backlogged bookkeeping as well. Since this is a form of relaxation for Joanne it is a blessing to everyone!

San Isidro Project

The rainy season has FINALLY started, on the exact date that one of the men in San Isidro said it would, May 25th. It is not unusual for the rainy season to begin slowly, with perhaps one or two rains per week for a few weeks. But this year the rains held off til the very day Don Berto predicted, and have not stopped in two full days since then. The new tilapia pond at San Isidro is filling, and is so far the place with the most water in all of the green area. That is a great blessings because normally it is a portion of the planting field itself that held all of the marshy water in past year. We

have already begun discussing where and when to buy the baby tilapia for the pond.

We have also begun talking about the fruit trees that will be purchased and planted with funds donated by one lady who came with TORCH last June. (Thank you, Diane!) We have the extra blessing of a local man who has an agricultural degree and knows what fruit trees will and will not grow well in that area. He has suggested Nance, Guava, Guayanava, and Lime trees. One man in San Isidro also hopes to plant a row of coconut palms along the fence line on the highest side of the green area.

The water tank has also been started and is progressing well, but we are out of funds to



Beginning the tank foundation. Note the size of the boy in the top left hole. Miguel is 12 years old and one of the hardest workers in the community.

complete it. Currently, the last of the 20' concrete columns is being poured. The project foreman, a resident of the San Isidro community and the man who headed up the water tower project for the next community over, has estimated the remaining cost at \$4,000. The high expense is because of the thickness and stability required for the concrete base of the water tank and the water proofing that must be done to the entire surface, inside and out.

The end of May and all of June are stepping up to an even faster pace than this month. More on those goings on next month.

Prayers

Please pray for the trash to burnable briquet seminar we are having with Amelia Raila, a fellow Doctoral student of Joanne's and a UN worker in Haiti. Pray that this seminar will be beneficial to all who attend. Also please pray that everything will go smoothly and well for the group that is coming in next week.

Thank you for your interest and care in our work here and your concern for us. May He bless and keep you in His hands, Dwight & Joanne



Columns going up