

Our Dear Brothers & Sisters and Friends,

2013 October

October has been a wonderful month, but it seems that it is over far too soon. Does time seem like it is increasing in speed to you also? It is a month of completing some tasks and preparing for some new ones. Dwight's classes at Por Los Niños finished this week for the year (the school year in Honduras is from February until November). And so he is finishing up plans for the break. Joanne had her Scholars of Change video on Facebook for all to see. If you have not seen it, it gives an overview of a project she was working on for her Doctoral dissertation. The video was not only an overview, but also a contest. We have been delighted to have our grandson, Andrew with us. Read more on all of these topics and much more below.

Our Winter Continues

This has been the wettest rainy season (our winter runs from late May to November) that we can remember. Dwight can only recall a few days since June that it has not rained. Even the tamarindo tree over hanging our back wall is bearing a second crop of fruit (yum). You may recall that our first October here in Olancho (2008), it rained so much and so hard that it washed out the dam supplying Catacamas with water, downed high voltage power lines supplying us with electricity, caused numerous landslides visible from our house and the main road, and did extensive flooding in the river-bottoms. We didn't think anything of it; but just figured it was the normal for October. That October it just rained and rained – we figure between 4 to 5 ft during that month. This year, while it has rained most every day, it has not been near as much and we have sunshine most days. We do admit of getting a little bit tired of our water looking like coffee. But then we are very thankful when we have water and don't have to carry it from a distance.

Contest Results Are In

We are so very thankful for all your prayers (and clicks) in support of Joanne's video contest with her university. The results have come in and Joanne was not one of the five winners. However, she is fine with that and thankful to God for those ministries and projects that He blessed as winners. We fully trust that God is in control of all things, that His timing is perfect, and that He makes no mistakes. If you have not had a chance to view the three minute video that details the works in San Isidro, it can be found on Joanne's Facebook home page.

School at Por Los Niños

Finals have finished at the school at Por Los Niños. Dwight thinks the students did exceptionally well. Many have been getting 100s on the weekly quizzes and all have shown great improvement since last year. They will be out of school until early Feb. and Dwight is looking forward to continuing as their computer teacher and adjunct math mentor for a fourth year in 2014.



Cristian (2nd grade) struggles with learning disabilities, but he has greatly improved this year.

Graduates

We had a graduation ceremony for the students with disabilities in November. They did a good job and Dwight has agreed to consult with them as they have questions and put into practice what they learned. They have the use of a donated computer so that they will be able to work and grow in their computer knowledge.



Miguel Vargas, 13, who many of you know from San Isidro, will complete a year of study with Dwight and receive a certificate in Computer Studies in November. While many of Dwight's afternoon students have come and gone, Miguel has been diligent and very studious. He can write text messages to Dwight in binary and has beaten him in a typing competition. He can make sharp looking documents and has learned skills in thinking logically and problem solving. We are proud of him. His plans are to start 7th grade this next year.

Plans After the Exams

After the exams, Dwight has plans to teach once again in the

national penitentiary in the Tamara Valley north of Tegucigalpa. The work in the national prisons has been going on for over 25 years since Rigoberto Vargas was a student at Baxter Institute, and now that he is still in the hospital in Managua, Nicaragua, it is continuing under his assistants.

We also plan on visiting in the western part of Honduras in an area known as Opotoro in the Department of La Paz. We will be assisting a preacher born there who currently works in Olancho. We will be taking some warm clothes with us, not only to give away, but to wear, since the mountains can get down in the 30s at night. Of course, the coffee grown near where we will be is reputedly the best in Honduras, so we will be able to enjoy that. We also want to go to the north coast (Caribbean Ocean) for a few days to enjoy the sunshine and surf.

Lisa Bloecher and her Hope

Chip Bloecher, from Farmer's Branch, TX, has been a friend since soon after we moved here. If you have never met him, we can assure you that he is someone to look up to (unless you are taller than 6'8"). He has been bringing groups to work here for quite a number of years and has a heart and love for the people of Honduras. His wife, Lisa, and 8 year old daughter, Hope, (who are both somewhat more petite than Chip) have started coming down with him and now even without him. For they have found a great love for the people here. Lisa has started an organization called 'Mamás en Catacamas' that is assisting single mothers in Catacamas. They have started a feeding program where the mothers will get food on a regular basis and also training programs. Dwight has consulted with them on Tilapia ponds (thanks Brian Ray!!) and is preparing to start training those moms interested in computer skills.

Sunday School Class

Dwight is continuing to teach his preteen class (ages 11 – 14 approximately). His class is studying the book of Acts (which should not surprise those of you from the A&M church of Christ since he taught it there for many years). He has also activated a contest for the end of the class. The contest is based on the game show, Who Wants to be a Millionaire. In Texas, he called it Who Wants to be an Actspert, but they have not yet come up with a name in Spanish. Dwight is also looking for people who would be interested in donating prizes for the contest – everything from pens to flashlights and portable music devices.

SPECIAL MISSION TRIP NEED

We are looking for anyone interested in coordinating or joining a mission group to come and work sometime in 2014. The Escuela Buen Samaritano (Good Samaritan School) was founded in the early 1980s by the churches of Christ in response to the great need for good, quality, christian education for elementary children who cannot afford the uniforms and school supplies required of children here. But recent economic conditions in the U.S. have resulted in dire circumstances for the school. The 27-year-old roof is leaking in many places, the walls are peeling and crumbling in places, and the folding chairs used for large events are rusting. All of these needs can be supplied by work teams from the U.S. and would multiply the actual time, money, and labor 10 fold by assisting the school with 350 students. Please consider forming a group with your local congregation and planning a trip in 2014. We will gladly answer any questions you might have and will facilitate your group in every way possible.

Grandson Andrew

Andrew has been a pleasure and a blessing to us. He always wakes up (and wakes us up) with a smile on his face. He seems to enjoy most of the food and has gained considerable height in his time here. He enjoys his nanny, Blanca, a 15 year old who just graduated from the ninth grade. She spends all morning with him while Joanne is working on her dissertation and Dwight is teaching at Por Los Niños.

Prayers

Continue to pray for our health and well-being, for the completion of Joanne's dissertation (which has now been moved back 'til Feb 2014), and for Andrew's peace and comfort in his new environment.

We thank our Lord for you. May He bless and keep you in His hands, Dwight & Joanne



Dwight's newest student



*Alba Rosa showing the headband she learned to make in the sewing class at **Mamás en Catacamas**.*



Enia and Jossela are glad school is almost over.



On the back window of the taxi, it asks, "If Jesus had come yesterday, where would you be today?" And on the lower panel it says, "Even today Jesus awaits your return to Him."



Andrew grew more than an inch in the first 3 weeks here. Must be the rain. Dwight wonders why it hasn't helped him?