

Our Dear Brothers & Sisters and Friends,

2013 November

November was yet another wonderfully busy month, to God's Glory and kingdom.

Annual Women of Purpose Revival

The second weekend in November, Joanne joined 100+ other English speaking missionary women in the beautiful Valley of the Angels for three wonderful days of praise and worship to God ... all in English! The Women of Purpose ladies come from the WV and OH area, with a ministry that began 12 years ago, and bring their entire Revival, including a praise and worship team, to encourage and uplift the missionary women throughout Honduras. And the entire weekend is free to the missionaries living here! This has become one of the special highlights of Joanne's year. God has also used the annual event to bless us in another great way. For the past four Revivals (one was in May), Joanne has shared a room with the same missionary from Guaimaca. As a result of their first Revival together, we have become special and close friends with Johnnie and Vickie Orr and their ministry that houses 16 Honduran children. They add another dimension to our work and service and we are thankful for them all!



Andrew Gets New Books

The Women of Purpose enlist the add of sponsors for each of the women who attend the Revival. Two years ago, the preacher's wife from the church that sponsored Joanne was at the Revival and they have been keeping in close contact for the past year. This year, before the women came, Joanne heard from Linda that she would be among the women once again. Joanne asked Linda if she could please find a few used or handed down Bible story books for Andrew, since he had nothing to "read" during church; no "quiet" toys. Linda didn't do that. Instead, she enlisted the aid of other loving women, including Joanne's personal sponsor from both 2011 and 2012 (Love you, Sherri!), and they greatly blessed Andrew with many special books, including a Children's First Bible, and a Bible coloring book! Joanne read some of them to him during sessions of the WOP Revival (in a whisper, of course) and he has asked for them again and again. The Revival also offers a free

book exchange, so Joanne also picked up a 1965 copy (10th printing) of The Children's Bible. It is a large, colorfully illustrated collection of Bible stories that she remembers reading in her childhood years, and many of you older folks probably remember reading as well (since it was already reprinted 10 times by 1965). Andrew has also been enjoying a paraphrasing of those stories during Joanne's morning coffee time.



students each afternoon in our home. His desire to teach in the national penitentiary escaped him for this year, but he is starting to make plans for January to teach in the area of that prison that is sectioned off for one of the international gangs – the 18th Street gang.

Culto Unido

We had our quarterly combined worship in November at the congregation in the outlying town of El Espino. There were more people than there was room for in the little church building so they rented a mango grove across the road. It was a wonderful place for the worship and fellowship time with many of the congregations in Catacamas. Often times the hosting

Dwight Continues Computer Classes

Though all of the public, and many of the private, schools have closed for the year, Dwight continues to teach



church will serve a dinner after the worship. El Espino served a dinner plus a rice beverage named Horchata – a favorite drink in Honduras. Our congregation at El Colegio will host the next one in February.

November 23rd

Many know that on November 23rd Joanne celebrated her birthday. That date is also the birthday of Alba Rosa's grandmother, who lives in Rio Tinto about 50 minutes outside of Catacamas by car. Alba, most of her siblings, and most of the grandmother's great-grandchildren have not seen her since Joanne drove them up there just over a year ago. This grandmother is especially special to Alba and her 10 siblings because their mother, Abuelita's daughter, died unexpectedly at the age of 42 from complications of diabetes. So on Nov. 23rd Joanne took 22 members of the family who live in San Isidro and vicinities, three large orders of Chinese fried rice, (4) 3-liter Cokes, a large bakery birthday cake, (30) mandarin oranges, and plastic cups and spoons, up to help her celebrate her 77th birthday. Total cost for the excursion: less than \$41!! Pictured are 17 of her GREAT-grandchildren. Also attending were three of Abuelita's other children (Alba's aunts and uncle); close to 40 people, with the other local grandchildren and great-grands. It's so wonderful to be such a large blessing to so many people for so little money.



A Very Special Thanksgiving in Honduras

This year we celebrated the U.S. national holiday of Thanksgiving at a beautiful ranch high up in the mountains above south-western Tegucigalpa in Santa Ana with roughly 40 others. Joanne cooked an excellent broccoli cheese casserole....for 40 people. The

power was out until 7 AM Thursday morning, so she precooked it on a gas stove and then put in a large crockpot to get hot before we left for the 5 hour trip. We thought that the majority of the people would be North Americans, but it turned out that there were only five Norteamericanos besides us and our hostess – and two of those were Canadians and another two were in Honduras for an adoption. Of the Honduran guests were included two



Diputados (the title of the people serving in the Honduras House of Representatives), an assistant director of the Attorney Generals office, and a former Colonel in the anti-corruption section of the National Police (who was forced to resign because she took her job too seriously). And their families came with them. We had a good time and lots of US traditional foods. That is until the power went out again. Then we had more fun. Since the gates were solely electrically powered those who were still there started to make plans to spend the night. The power came on after several hours allowing those held captive to return to Tegus.

We stayed Thursday night since it was too risky to return to Catacamas in the dark. The next morning we had a good breakfast and great devotional and sharing times in front of a roaring fireplace and in the gardens surrounding the house. Of course, the power went off again and we were thinking we might have to spend another night. We needed to leave by 1 PM to make it back to Catacamas before dark. Thanks to our Lord the power returned at 12:30 PM,

allowing us to have a safe and unhurried drive home; with a stop at Las Chiquitas in Guaimaca to purchase a poinsettia and a stop in Juticalpa to shop at a larger grocery store, before arriving home before 7pm.

Dwight's Mountaintop Experience

Dwight took some time this month to drive and climb to near the top of Piedra Blanca, the mile high mountain behind our house. Because it has been raining heavily in the late afternoons, Marcio Matamoros and he returned well before dark. He insists that they did not return early because of their guide telling them that there was a tiger that lived in the caves close by where they were.

Escuela del Buen Samaritano

Last month we mentioned a special ministry need in our local area; that of the Escuela Buen Samaritano (The School of the Good Samaritan).. Attached are photos of the roof that is in such poor repair (there were many areas like this one), and one tiny section of



the deteriorating walls. The people who work and minister at this private Christian school for poor children have come to mean a lot to us over the years, as we have witnessed first hand the benefits and long term outcomes of their education and influence. If you or anyone with your church or organization might consider joining us with a work team next summer, please email us.



Prayers

Pray for our activities for this month of December. We will be doing more traveling and Dwight will be going high up in the mountains of western Honduras. Pray that the evangelism campaign there will touch many hearts for Jesus. Please pray that there are people who will want to participate in helping the The Good Samaritan School. Pray that our Lord keep us safe this last

month of 2013.

Until then, may God bless you and keep you, may He make His face to shine upon you, and may He give you peace!

Love you, Dwight and Joanne Tomkins