

Feb. 18, 2010

Happy Thursday dear friends,

Oh what a glorious day this has been. Everyone has a great tale to tell. The construction crew are in full swing now and things are moving right along. When I arrived Jim was hauling wheel barrels of mortar mix as if it were flour, he makes it look so easy even though it must weigh a couple hundred pounds. Jeff was busy figuring the proper placement of rebar in the footings for the fence that is going up. The bond beam is finished on the back wall of the church. I saw Renita and Bev busy putting down mortar for it. Two local youths stopped and wanted to help with the construction today and were really caught up in the moment as they worked side by side with our folks. Two little Niño's sat on a pile of rock all day, just to watch the Americans build a church. They were as cute as can be with their jet black hair and shiny brown eyes. This is a huge thing for them as few have ever seen Americans before.

Right behind where the new church is going up is the old church which measures about 30 ft. by 50 ft. and held about 80 people. Bob had called a meeting in there today for all of the local Pastor's, Elders and church officials to meet with him and Pastors Rigo, Dwight, and Bill. We needed to agree on a time and support for the Evangelism effort that is about to take place. There were 7 churches represented today and we needed to all be on the same page as to the duties and outcome of the effort. We started the meeting with 17 members of the local churches, not counting us and by the time the meeting came to an end over an hour later, there were about 35 present. There were a large number of women present and Bob used a quote from Marcie today to encourage these women to press on. It really is a very true saying, it is this "the women do all the clean up jobs that make the men look better". There is no doubt that men and women need each other to get the job done well. It was decided that we would supply 1,300 flyers to be passed out by the local members and the Pathfinders. The time to start the meeting took a while to settle. Pastor Rigo stressed that the time would be 7 p.m. "pronto", now pronto is the key word here as Central Americans always seem to work on a different time schedule. So if we say we will start at 7 p.m. it will be exactly that time. One of the Elders asked if we could 'play' with the time a little as Mexico has a custom...if you say 6:30 then you can expect people to start to arrive at 7:30! He was very serious about this custom but it did not go over well with us. So the final discussion was to start at 7 sharp and to offer a prize to all who are there on time.

The medical clinic was packed again today and saw 203 patients. Tresa said it was unfortunate that a few of them had slipped in twice. We did call in some Police to help keep the lines organized but for the amount of people in line it wasn't too bad. The optical clinic fitted 112 people with reading glasses and gave out 40 pair of sunglasses.

The medical team was split up today and Dr. Roy, along with Delores, Melissa, Jessica, and Allison were driven by ambulance 2 hours away to one of the poorest of the Indian Villages. They had 6 police men escorting them and as they pulled in to a secluded gated area far from any civilization they started to wonder if they were safe and not being kidnapped. But the fear left as they were surrounded by so many happy little Indian children all speaking a little known

language. Jessica and Melissa each said this had been the best day of their lives and with tears of joy counted it such a blessing to be part of this team. Dr. Roy said most of the people were in good shape, parasites being the most prevalent problem. One woman he treated did have a very serious skin infection but he thinks the antibiotics she was given should take care of it. These Indians have been more influenced by modern diets than the Guatemalan Indians and so are showing more signs of diabetes and high blood pressure. The team were able to see about 80 patients in this village today. I wish you could feel the charge that was in the room when these folks returned from the village, it was like lightning had struck. And to think that there are some people who think Christians are deprived of all the "fun" things in life. Ha is that ever a joke.

Kim is practicing with her team tonight getting ready for V.B.S, the children will be so thrilled and will learn so much from this program which is always done well. Tomorrow will be a big day at the clinic as all the nurses will be vaccinating the children for the typical childhood diseases plus they and the adults will get the H1N1 vaccine.

Continue to pray for us, we rely on your prayers. The prayers of a righteous man availeth much.

We miss you all and enjoy your letters of encouragement and love, if you haven't sent one yet, please do so.

"But the end of all things is at hand; be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:7,8

Smiles across the miles,
Jennifer Young, Mission Reporter

Be ye fishers of men. You catch them-He'll clean them!