

February 2008 Newsletter

As I look out over the yard behind my house I see about a dozen mango trees and the ground covered with rotting mangoes. There was so many this year that not even the cows want them anymore. Here the people call mangoes "the food of the poor" because if you don't have any food in the house at least you can go gather mangoes. The season is ending now but we had about of month of enjoyment.

Our summer camp season has come to a close. The university kids are already back to school and the grade school and high school kids will be back in over the next few weeks.

Daniel and Kyle participated in our church youth camp. Kyle celebrated his 17th birthday and camp and they had him come up front to sing to him. Daniel was crowned "King of the Camp". Dan taught the 21 and older group each day. Here youth camp is 12-35 years old. He also spoke on the Saturday night. That night a teen girl from our local town (who came because of Daniel) gave her heart to the Lord. She cried for hours and took turns hugging on us. She said to me at one point while I was hugging her "I don't know why I'm crying so much?" I told her that God was doing a complete cleansing, which made her cry even more. A young man also from our local town rededicated his life to the Lord. His mother is a Christian and he told Dan that night that he just wanted to go home and give his mom a hug. These 2 young people are involved in a project called "1x100" that Dan is coordinator of for our town through Unicef and The Ministry of Children and Adolescents.

I participated in our ladies retreat this past weekend. Right from the opening services God's presence was there. We had some great teaching, preaching and laughs. God did a tremendous work in the life of a dear Pastor's wife named Josefa. Her and her husband pastured a very difficult church and it took it's toll on them so she left the city to pastor a tiny isolated country church in our area. Dan and I went to visit Josefa and her husband the week before the retreat to encourage them. We talked, cried and prayed together. Josefa was our ladies leader for years but didn't even want to attend this year. She came to the retreat with a smile on her face and thanked me for our visit. She didn't even step into the building before ladies came out to hug her and tell her how much they had missed her. After a class on "Speaking Blessing into People's Lives" I overheard one of her former members praying over Josefa. She was praying blessing over Josefa's life, husband, children, grandchildren, and ministry. This woman thanked her very specifically for things she had learned from her and her husband while they pastured her. I was blessed just witnessing this because I knew it was exactly everything she needed. If that weren't enough of a blessing, at the closing service the Overseer's wife, who was the Director of this retreat called out Josefa. Sis Nunez presented Josefa with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for her years of faithfulness and ministry. As we learned in our classes Prov. 18:20 – Words satisfy the soul as food satisfies the stomach; the right words on a person's lips bring satisfaction. 21b ...for the tongue call kill or nourish life. Let's speak words of life into people's lives!

Dan had an overlap of his schedule this week. He had to attend a 2 day seminar for his 1x100 project and as coordinator for Carapagua, he couldn't just not show up. Scheduled for the same time was a 1 day seminar for Directors of Children's Homes. Both seminars were put on by Unicef and The Ministry of Children and Adolescents. I attended the Children's Home seminar for Dan. The Minister of Children bounced between our 2 seminars in 2 different towns. She had introduced Dan at his seminar so when Dan came to pick me up and mine she said "good-bye Pastor" to Dan. She has an amazing memory for names and details. We appreciate both times her office helped with medical costs for one of the children in the Home and the past and upcoming seminars to train and encourage the children's home directors and workers.

In this newsletter I would like to tell you about Patricia (Patti) and Mercedes. Their older sister, Carolina, was featured in a previous newsletter. These 3 sisters come from the local town close to our Home and so when their mother is well, which unfortunately is not often, she can come and visit her daughters.

Patti is 10 years old. Patti likes to sing, read and tell stories. Patti has a very creative mind and does well in school.

Mercedes is 6 years old. Mercedes likes to play with her baby doll and make pretend food with the sand and leaves. Mercedes likes to cuddle so I always find time to sit and snuggle when I visit.

The Miller's