

1st Local Missionary from Quiche churches of Christ

Long the beneficiary of North American missionary efforts, Quiche Mayan churches of Christ have seen the importance of missionary work first hand and are now coming of age themselves. On Saturday, September 26, a group of men traveled from the area of Chichicastenango and Santa Cruz del Quiche to the village of Chuisiquel, located in the mountains above Joyobaj. Aside from the adventuresome trip of sliding through the muddy hills and eventually getting stuck and unstuck in a ditch, the trip marked a great step for the churches of Christ in the Quiche area of Guatemala.

These men traveled to represent seven church elderships who had come together for the purpose of helping younger churches grow and become more self sufficient with their own preachers and elders. These elders have seen the importance of helping other churches become more mature and more evangelistic. Ten to fifteen churches ultimately decided to dedicate funding to the employment of **their own missionary evangelist** who will be sent out to the areas of Zacualpa and Joyobaj, north of Chichi. They selected Martin Turquiz from Choacoman 4 to work as a missionary evangelist.

The first congregation Martin will begin working with is in Chuisiquel, located about 3 hours from Chichi and around 30 min/1 hour from Joyobaj. He will be traveling to the area twice a month and will increase his involvement into other areas as they have funding. Since Martin will be doing his traveling on public transportation, he will spend several days at a time in each area.

The churches involved in this endeavor include many that HTI works with: Chichicastenango, Patzite, Paxot 2, Paxot 3, Xepocol, Santa Cruz del Quiche, Pacaja Xesic, Choacaman 4 and some of the Mactzul churches as well.

Most of the congregations in this area have elders, preachers, and evangelists who dedicate their time to the local church on a volunteer basis. This effort represents a resolve among the churches to support a missionary who can dedicate more time so he can travel to areas farther away for the purpose of strengthening and expanding the kingdom. This is a **100% locally funded ministry...and shows great progress in spiritual maturity!** The only thing they've asked of HTI is that we continue supporting them with our mobile medical and dental clinics and preventive health education.

Please join us in praying for the success of this exciting new ministry! **Pray for Martin Turquiz and the church elders who make up the board of directors: Franciso Ware - Patzite, Tomas Panjoj - Chichicastenango, Anastacio Alvarez - Pacaja Xesic, Juan Canil - Paxot 3, Gaspar Chan - Xepocol, and Tomas Salvador - Xepol.**



Martin Turquiz (with Bible) praying before the two baptisms...the first ever in Baja Verapaz

(This report comes to us from the blog of Dr. Lisa and Kemmel Dunham: www.kemmelandlisa.blogspot.com)

MARRIAGE SEMINAR & YOUTH CONFERENCE

In events not very common in Guatemala, HTI (with support from Brentwood Hills C/C in Nashville) brought in Leonardo Rojas from Venezuela in October to lead two important seminars: a marriage seminar and a National Youth Conference. His classes were excellent as he addressed his conservative Mayan audience. Amazing, he was able to get people to open up considerably.

At the *marriage seminar* Leo asked one of the couples to read from Song of Solomon to each other. It was pretty brave of them to read the steamy passage in front for the audience! Leo urged the class to focus on using loving and affectionate words as couples. He was evidently quite effective in his presentation because several people sought him out for individual counseling during his down time. Couples came from seventeen different churches to attend this seminar.

At the *youth conference*, which focused on teens aged 13-17 years old, Leonardo was equally straightforward. He talked about being prepared for courtship and dangers of and ways to avoid having premarital sex. The youth conference was attended by more than 1500 people!

It was a great week for spiritual edification!

Despite the rain, the drought continues

It is reported that 460 people have now died from malnutrition in Guatemala due to the drought. Cesar George, Guatemala's Director of Meteorology, said that "It was the worst month of rain for September that we have ever experienced." And the sparse showers are expected to last through November--a few months *after* the harvest season for corn and beans is supposed to begin and sustenance farmers start sowing again.

Many Guatemalan churches and Health Talents, plus several countries (Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador and others) have responded to the crisis with shipments of food. U.S. businesses are also helping. Walmart, for instance, made a \$100,000 gift to the World Food Program. The donation targets 31,000 people. It may not be enough. There is still much concern that farmers won't see their crops grow enough in the coming harvest season.

Family News...

Nurses Neva and Glenn Berkey, the newest members of the HTI mission team in Guatemala, have completed their initial language training in Antigua. They are now living in Chichicastenango where they will be working with the team in that area (Dr. Lisa and Kemmel, Dr. Josefina and nurse Sheri) to orient themselves to their new ministry. Check out their blog: www.berkeygn.blogspot.com

What an inspiration they are to change their lifestyle so completely to follow their dream!



New HTI Board Members

Alice Bush, RN, of Indianapolis, Indiana, and **Pharmacist Larry Owens** of Birmingham, Alabama, have accepted the opportunity to serve 3-yr terms on the HTI Board of Directors. Alice was a part of HTI's first mission team in 1978, and Larry has made many medical mission trips to both Guatemala and Nicaragua. They both come with a good understanding of and appreciation for HTI's mission. We welcome them heartily!

US AID says that if the conditions are not properly addressed, the food crisis could spread to other regions and the outcome could be dire.

Health Talents and some churches in Guatemala City have partnered to help in this effort, and to date we have provided food for 347 families. If you'd like to help too, we could do even more. Just mark your contribution for "Drought Assistance."

2009 HTI Memories



2009 HTI Statistical Report

Medical patients – 25,000 projected
Dental patients – 9,000 projected
Surgery patients – 519

ABC students – 668 (8 need sponsors)

Bates Scholarship students – 5
Bennie-McDonnel Nursing students – 1
Deborah Rivas Scholarship - 1
Sherman Scholarship students – 10

And Jesus said, "Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'"

Luke 10:9

2010 Trip Schedule

Jan 16-23 – Gen/Gyn Surgery
Jan 28-Feb2- Nicaragua Medical/Dental
Feb 6-13 – Gyn/Plastics Surgery
March13-20 – Eye/Orthopedic Surgery
April 17-24 – Gen/Gyn Surgery
June 5-12 – General Surgery
July 7-12 – Guatemala Medical/Dental
July 17-24 – Eye Surgery
Aug 7-14 – Gen/ENT/Plastic Surgery
Sept 4-11- Gen/Gyn Surgery
Oct 2-9 – Gen/Gyn Surgery
Nov 3-8 – Guatemala Medical/Dental
Nov 13-20 – Eye Surgery

Register online at www.healthtalents.org or contact Julie Wheatley for more info at juliecarmen@gmail.com or 615-397-5447.

IRA Gift Opportunity - EXTENDED

If you are over 70-1/2 and have an Individual Retirement Account, you can make tax exempt donations directly to organizations like Health Talents thanks to the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that has been extended through 2009.

Under this provision gifts in amounts up to \$100,000 are not taxed as ordinary income when they are paid directly from the IRA to Health Talents. This provision gives you a great way to make a real difference in the world...and do it tax free!