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as well as all of our properties
Guatemalans displaced from their homes
Increased Financial Provisions
For Carla as she writes her book

AUGUST 2008

Greetings from Songs of Joy,

First, we would like to express our great gratitude to Kirk & Diana DeVenney and Open Door Ministries for the years that they have been our legal "covering" and received our financial donations. We ask the Lord to bless them and the ODM ministry in a special way for all the ways they are blessings missionaries like us who have needed their assistance.

We now have our own 501(c)(3) status and have a **NEW SOJ OFFICE.**

Our friend Marie Stevanus is our new secretary and will be handling all of the donations and receipts. If you would like to contact Marie for any reason, you can reach her at 443-786-4552. You will be receiving your year-end financial statement from both the ODM and the SOJ office.

Please send
all donations to:

Songs of Joy
P.O. Box 511
Trappe, MD
21673

This has been an unusual year for me because I am back in Maryland. I came most specifically to spend time with my girls, Kristy & Marisol, who've both been working the summer session of Camp Sunshine at Immanuel's Church, and son, John Robert, who lives in Annapolis. I was just missing them terribly. I am hoping to be able to visit some churches while I'm here to share about what's happening at SOJ. If there is any chance you could help me with that, please write to me at: sojcarla@gmail.com (my "traveling" email). You can also reach me on my cell phone: 407-625-0677.

I believe that the Lord's other purpose for me during these weeks is to work on writing a book. I've been encouraged to do that for years . . . and I think now is the time. Please pray for me, that I will be diligent and that our "story" will encourage the hearts of many and bring glory to the Lord!

CRISIS: In the mountainous area of Jocotan/Camotan, where we have been working for years in small villages, there has been a geological crisis. Just this week, because of the tremendous amount of rain we've

had, the earth has opened up and two villages have basically been buried under mud slides or houses have disappeared into huge caverns in the earth. At last report there are more than 85 families who have lost everything. Robert has told the officials that we have room to take in 30 people to live with us ~ and we have no idea for how long that will be.

We know that finances are tight everywhere but we continue to ask for your help as we take on this added responsibility for hurting people. Please pray with us that God will meet every financial need, but more importantly, pray that HE will comfort these precious people and bring many souls into the Kingdom through Christian support that is offered in His name, not just by us but by other missionary friends. We thank you for caring and for your continued support for SOJ!! Remember, we are your hands extended to those in need. You can make a difference.

Our trip to **NICARAGUA** was quick and fruitful. There were 90 pastors who attended the 3-day Pastors' Conference, receiving teaching from Pastor Charles Schmitt from our sending Church, Immanuel's in Silver Spring, MD. We send a special thanks to Charles and to Jose Flores, who came to translate for him. At the same time there was a small team of 6 other Americans and several Guatemalans who joined us to do 3 days of medical clinics.

The team: Kathleen Cathey, Janet Strudwick, Pastor Charles Schmitt (front) & Mark Scuderi, Sheena Strudwick, Donna Slingluff & Jose Flores (plus Angela Harders, shown below w/ our children)



A special *"Thank you!"* to each of you who sent a special gift toward that outreach!

We attended over 1,000 patients in 3 days and rejoice that there were over 200 salvations. It was worth all the hard work.



Our 2nd day we were in "Chispa", an area that the Nicaraguans will not enter because of drugs, gangs, and violence. No "outsiders" are ever allowed. They said the Gospel has not been able to penetrate there. We attended over 600 patients that day and over 100 people gave their lives to Jesus . . . some of whom were members of the gangs. Hallelujah!

Here are some of the folks who waited hours to be seen!



Mark with some of the kids



Donna giving a Bible to a new convert . . . she was thrilled!

NEW Songs of Joy GROUP SHOT – July 2008



We have a new **Construction Project**, building a nutrition center/dental clinic on our farm property. There is no dental care anywhere near our town. Once we have the facility, we want to purchase new equipment here in Guatemala so it will be guaranteed. The plan is to bring dental students from Guatemala City to live a month at a time while doing their "practice" in caring for the village people near us. We also want to begin a feeding program out of the center for so many who live in the mountains near us and are suffering from malnutrition. We hope to put in several "hospital-type" rooms where we can bring in mothers with babies who are likely to die from malnutrition, so we can feed not only the child but the mother, to restore them to health.

We are looking for 2 specific teams to come and help us with construction. We want a team of plumbers and electricians to come in November and then a team to work on putting up dry wall and finishing the building in January. Can you come to help with either of these projects? Please let us know!!

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Angela Harders, from Silver Spring, MD, was with us from for several weeks at the Home, and went to help translate for the Nicaragua outreach. She spent a lot of time with the children and really enjoys being with them.

Here she is with two of our girls, Silvia & Celena, making tortillas.



Danielle Davidson has been with us many times and was recently back, along with a group of family and friends from the Baltimore area.

The team worked several days on painting and renovating our son David's Christian school building. It made such a difference and was a real encouragement to the great folks who operate the school.

They also worked on a rock wall on our farm land, around the area where we're building the nutrition center. They're shown above with some of our kids/staff who worked with them. Thanks, guys, for hard work done with such joy and dedication. We look forward to having you back again next year!

That's all for now. We love and appreciate you so much!! Please do get in touch with me while I'm in MD and NY (with my family). I'd love to hear from you.

With our love & blessings,

Carla

NEW Support Address

**Songs of Joy Ministries
P.O. Box 511
Trappe, MD 21673**

**For sponsorship, note
"child's name" on Memo line.**

Thank you so much!!