

Hello Friends,

Well, these are interesting and challenging days – for you as well as for us, I am sure. It seems that things are being “shaken” on every hand....and we are called to trust in our wonderful, faithful, magnificent God! I hope that you are running into His presence as you face your own challenges in these days.

I am still in Maryland, seeking to make contacts and sharing about Songs of Joy with anyone who will give me an ear. You may be one of those folks. If so, thank you for hearing...and for considering this ministry to the children of Guatemala.

First, I'd like to share a “practical” need I have for a car to use while I'm here – until December 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are in the DC area and could possibly help with that need, please contact me by my cell: 407-625-0677.

If it would be possible for me to share with your pastor, mission group or church family, or some friends in your home while I'm here, please give me a call. I would really appreciate your assistance in making that happen!

It has been hard to be away from Robert and my family for so long, but we know this is His plan for us at this time. Robert has been having some physical issues. He and David are going to be coming for the month of November in order to get some medical attention and a second opinion about his health.

We have had a sharp decrease in our monthly support, understandably coming from the financial crisis many are facing in the U.S. One of our missionary friends who for years has been supplying our home with basics like beans rice, oil and more, has told us he is no longer able to give us anything.

Consequently, Robert is now working hard trying to raise enough money to keep the ministry running. He is having regular sales of things we have at the Home, in order to have money to cover monthly expenses and staff salaries. We have been forced to lay off many of our staff. A large number of our children will be returning to live with their mothers when the school year ends next month. That is not only because of the lack of fiancés, but

also because the Children's Court has made many changes this year. They have said that we are no longer permitted to have children in our care for an "extended" length of time if they are not placed through the court system.

Because of the financial strain we face, that is surely a mixed "blessing." Our hearts aches for so many of the children who have been part of our "family" as we wonder how their mothers, who could not care for them before, will manage now, when the economic situation has worsened around the world. We know that we can only do what we can do....and that God is indeed in control of both our lives and theirs.

Having said all that, we want to express our thanks to those of you who continue to stand with us financially. Your support means more to us now than ever before. We continue to need you and thank God for your faithfulness.

We have always reacted negatively when hearing someone say, "If you don't help us, we'll have to close the doors." That sounds like such a manipulative tactic. We know that God is able to provide for our needs – we have seen that through all of our time here -- BUT we have given all that we have to meet the needs of this ministry and the truth is, unless we receive more monthly support, we may be forced to consider closing Songs of Joy. After devoting 19 years of our lives here for the sake of the children and the hurting people of Guatemala and Central America, that would surely break our hearts.

If you have ever thought about helping us at Songs of Joy, this is the time to do it. Even though you may think you can't help much or that your small donation wouldn't make a difference, that is not true. Every dollar helps us to pay the electric bill or buy rice and beans for the children. Please consider, and ask the Lord what He would have you do.

May I remind you that we have a new SOJ office address. Please send all of your support now to:

**Songs of Joy**

**P.O. Box 511**

**Trappe, MD 21673** (make check to Songs of Joy or simply "SOJ")

We thank you so much for your love and for your prayers for us. We know that we could not be here without your continuing support! We love you and we need you with us as we continue to serve Him with all of our hearts, minds and strength.

As always, proclaiming His Faithfulness!  
Carla

If you are new to our mailing or have not seen our website in awhile, check it out: [www.songsofjoyhome.org](http://www.songsofjoyhome.org)