

# KAIROS MINISTRIES

March 2011 Volume 8 Issue 1

## To Be Useful . . .

By Elizabeth Valdez

The other week, I was reading a devotional by Max Lucado, entitled *Usefulness.* He was retelling the story of how Jesus healed a man, who was born blind, with nothing more than mud and saliva—dirt and spit (John 9:1-12). The simplicity and the surprise is what strikes me in this story. Here is Jesus, Son of God, faced with an opportunity to show His power and receive accolade from all watching. He could have merely spoken sight into this man's existence or laid a simple touch of his finger upon the man's eyes. He could have used sparks or said many fancy words and created more of a "show" for the on-lookers to enjoy, but He didn't. He took something ordinary and unexpected and used it for something unimaginable. In front of Him stood a man, whom many assumed had committed some type of horrible sin to be in his condition, and therefore was treated as an outcast by many in the church. Jesus didn't care about those rumors. He cared about this man. He took the unexpected and brought healing into this man's life. Jesus told his disciples, "it is not [sin] that made this man blind. This man was born blind so that God's power could be shown in him" (vs. 3). Jesus was not there to be a "showman" and that is not His desire now. Max Lucado finishes this devotional by writing,

> "*Once again God's power was seen, not through the ability of the instrument, but through its availability. 'Blessed are the meek,' Jesus explained. Blessed are the available. Blessed are the conduits, the tunnels, the tools. Deliriously joyful are the ones who believe that if God has used sticks, rocks, and spit to do his will, then he can use us.*"

Those of us who serve in Kairos Ministries do not consider ourselves to be "special" or "elite" because of what we do or because of our abilities, but we ***DO*** believe that God can, and wants to, use us to be His hands and feet in serving the hurting and needy and to show His glory and power to the spiritually blind as we make ourselves available to His calling.



## SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

There are already many who have signed up for a summer getaway to a beautiful and exotic locale - also known as Guatemala! Of the three groups from the United States that are currently planned, each will be traveling to Chiquimula. The first group will be a medical team from Lewisburg, PA with a potential smaller group of youth doing some construction projects, returning to Tierra Blanca and Chaguiton. The second team will be a group, composed mostly of young adults, from Ruhl's United Methodist Church, focusing on painting a school house in Chaguiton. The third team is from LCBC church in Manheim, PA and will be conducting medical clinics in various villages in Camotan. Please pray for each of these teams as they make their plans and develop unity in the upcoming months.

### Special points of interest:

- Special thanks to Stephanie Ricci for her help with this month's letter!
- GoodSearch—what is it? Read more on pg 4
- Kairos has Wii! If you have extra or unused games, please consider donating them to Kairos. For information on how to donate your games, both in Guatemala and in the USA, please contact us at our ministries email: kairosministries-guatemala@yahoo.com

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Example of bunk-beds built by RUMC Group

## Greetings and Happy New Year!

2011 is already in full force as we enter March and have much to share about the groups that traveled to Guatemala in January. Many good deeds were done thanks to their serving hearts and helping hands. God continues to bless Kairos and the people to whom we reach out.

**EPHESIANS 6:7**

*"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were **serving** the Lord, not people."*

Gustavo made his annual solo trip to Guatemala in January. He spent several weeks leading groups who had traveled to assist Kairos house and their mission work. Fifteen volunteers, including three doctors, made up a wonderful medical team from Lewisburg, PA. The team spent most of their time serving out in the field (the mountains to be precise) with two days in Tierra Blanca and two days in Chaguiton. Over five hundred residents of these villages were seen and cared for by the team. Not only did they give out sweatshirts but also provided medical care that is otherwise unavailable or inaccessible. The second team was made up of five members of Ruhl's UMC, (Manheim, PA) who are becoming regular visitors to Kairos House. Ted, Ruth, Elaine, Val and Sarah were welcomed as they spent four days working at Kairos House building bunk beds and repairing the roof.

Both groups are so appreciated for the unselfish giving of their gifts and abilities.

**EPHESIANS 2:10**

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do **good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*



Children listening to instructions for a game.

Priscila keeping a close watch on the food.





Baby girl enjoying her very own lollipop.

*"No gift is ever too small to help make a big difference in the lives of people who have so little."*

## ¡FELIZ NAVIDAD!

While the gift of time and travel to do hands-on work in Guatemala is always needed and appreciated, it is also the monetary offerings that allow God's will to be done through Kairos Ministries. Thanks to generous gifting, Kairos was able to go into Tierra Blanca and hand out over 150 gifts as well as 'Canastas Tipicas' (typical baskets) to the women which were made up of oil, candy, rice, five packets of soup and matches. Over forty families enjoyed chicken and rice that day while playing soccer and other games. What a celebration!

Kairos House was also blessed to be able to serve forty guests a full holiday meal of turkey, salad, pineapple, raisins, mashed and sweet potatoes, and punch. Over sixty gifts were given that day and much joy and gratitude filled the house.

During the day on the 24th of December a service was held in the house and chicken sandwiches and punch were enjoyed afterward.

No gift is ever too small to help make a big difference in the lives of people who have so little.

**Deuteronomy 15:10**

*"**Give** generously to the **poor**, not grudgingly, for the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do."*

# Be A Team Player!

Kairos Ministries operates more than by the hands of the Valdez family; it takes many individuals, families and churches to help. Please join any area of support that you feel is a gift or talent in your life!

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:27**

*"All of you together are **Christ's body**, and each of you is a part of it."*

**Financial Team:**

Offer monthly support (tax deductable) towards the:
- General Fund
- Missionary Support
- On-going Kairos House Fundraising

**Prayer Team:**

We know many people pray for Kairos and our family on a regular basis. We are interested in having a group of individuals who would welcome receiving more frequent and specific prayer requests.

**Hosting Teams:**

Host yearly, quarterly, or monthly "socials" in your homes, and invite different people, who may or may not be mission minded, with the idea of spreading the word about Kairos. Gustavo and Elizabeth, or Francisco and Priscila, are able to come and do presentations. All that is needed is an open door!



**Jaime Penedo, goalkeeper for one of Guatemala's soccer teams (Municipal, aka Los Rojos), posing with some of the children in the Kairos House at Christmas. Jaime is a regular supporter of the Kairos House and visits with the children regularly. Visit the following link to see how Jaime is being a true "team player" : http://www.prensalibre.com/deportes/futbol_nacional/SONRISA_0_395960448.html**

If you, your church or organization, is interested in partnering with Kairos Ministries in one of the above "teams" please email us with the respective name in the subject field (i.e. FINANCIAL TEAM) at: kairosministriesguatemala@yahoo.com and let us know how you are interested in helping us answer God's call to serve in this area.

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN GUATEMALA

*The following items are updates on several occurrences in the country of Guatemala.*

**Election Year** – All countries are in need of good leaders and Guatemala is no exception. In many countries where Democracy is in effect there are still problems and issues in regard to whom is chosen as a new leader. Much prayer is needed as well as the faith that all leaders are only given their position of power within God's will.

**Economics** – Much like what we have experienced here in the States this winter, cold months were felt in December and November. Food prices have increased as the cold weather affects many of the needed crops as well as the people who do not have the benefits of warmer clothing and well insulated homes. Prayers of thankfulness are abundant as the warmer temperatures begin to resume.

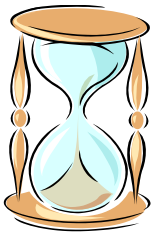
**CHURCH IN CHIQUIMULA**

Many of you may remember that El Calvario, the church in Chiquimula which graciously opens its doors for us when we bring work teams to the area, had to leave its location due to an exorbitant increase in the rent. It seems like they may have found a new location – for purchase, however! We request that you join us in prayer over this church as they seek God's direction in finding their new church "home base".

*"behind every successful woman is a man . . ." or something like that ☺*

# WOMEN IN ACTION

It is no secret that women are hard workers. Their skills and intelligence enable them to do a wide variety of jobs, from mothering to educating to building skyscrapers – there is not much that can limit them, beyond the restrictions placed by certain societies. In certain parts of Guatemala (like many parts of the world) there are certain jobs that are considered "man's work" and others that are considered to be "woman's work". Paving roads and moving large rocks that weigh close to 200 lbs would definitely be considered "mans work" in almost any part of the world. However, those stereotypes were challenged this past winter when a group of women from Tierra Blanca fixed a road leading down to their village that previously was only passable with a 4x4. Because of their efforts the vans that we use to transport our groups were able to make it all the way down to the school house and spared the group members the intense hike back up the mountain at the end of the day. It must be said that there were a few men who helped with breaking the larger rocks apart. But, as the saying goes, "behind every successful woman is a man . . ." or something like that ☺



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"...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40

## Support Kairos While Surfing the Web . . .

**Good Search –** We have something new and exciting we'd like to share with you! It's the new Kairos Ministries Guatemala toolbar - once added to IE (Internet Explorer) or Firefox, each time you shop at more than 1,600 stores (from Amazon to Zazzle!) a percentage of your purchase will automatically be donated to Kairos Ministries Guatemala - at no cost to you (and you may even save money as the toolbar provides coupons and deals as well!). The toolbar also has a search box and each time you search the Internet, about a penny is donated to Kairos Ministries Guatemala.
http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/kairos-ministries-guatemala

And please pass this along to all of your friends. The two minutes it takes to add this toolbar to your browser can make a lifetime of difference!

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**We're on the Web!**

**kairosguatemala.com**

## VISTAZO A LA VIDA DE LOS VALDEZES

We praise God that everyone in the Valdez family is healthy and enjoying life.

**Paco and Priscila** each celebrated their 60th birthday's (Paco in November, Priscila in January), though you wouldn't know it to look at them. Paco continues to enjoy serving with the *Bomberos Voluntarios* (Volunteer Firefighters) and providing leadership for his church. Priscila enjoys cross-stitching, when she can find the time, and spending time with her women's group weekly. Both love doting on their 6 grandchildren.

**Any and "Chino"** are doing well and adjusting smoothly to life as parents of two. **Jose Emilio** is now 7 months and is happy and healthy. He participated in his first medical clinic this past January and did great, allowing his mommy and daddy to help with translating for the doctors and nurses. **Regina**, their eldest, is a lively 5 ½ year old and loves her new role of big sister. She is excelling in school and enjoying the swimming classes she started a few months ago. She is ready to go swimming with her cousins this summer!

**Francisco, aka "Paqui", and Ingrid** just celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in December and love being parents to **Sarah** and **Felipe**. Sarah is turning into quite the young-lady and will be 8 in May –already! She is doing exceptionally well at school. Felipe is a rambunctious, soon to be 4 year old, and is ALL boy! Francisco continues to help Paco and Priscila with some of the daily tasks at the Kairos House while taking classes at the University.

**Gustavo** started the New Year in Guatemala, celebrating with fireworks and providing leadership to the two teams Kairos welcomed. **Elizabeth** continues to work part-time in the mental-health field, while both Gustavo and Elizabeth focus their efforts on support raising, group coordination, and general communication for the ministry. **Annalucia** is finishing up her school year as a kindergartener and **Gabriella** is getting ready to celebrate her 2nd birthday! They are excited to return to Guatemala as a family for the summer months, beginning in June.

We all thank each of you for your continued prayers for our families.