

Hi friends,

Well, it will probably come as no surprise that we hit the ground sprinting when we returned to Guatemala in mid-July, and I'll admit we have not slowed down much since then. Sharon is in high gear working with others to shape ongoing programs and strategies for how the school can better respond to the difficult family situations it discovers. She also continues to meet one-on-one with kids, absorbing their real-life stories and striving to reflect God's heart to them. It wouldn't be prudent to go into details in a group email like this, but in one case I will go so far as to ask specific prayer for the situation of one very young teen girl. Erica and her troubled family's dynamics have come to be a special burden to Sharon as she has delved deeper into their realities, and Erica runs the very real risk of ending up on the streets in the next few months if there is not some kind of dramatic change. Of course, you can pray for Sharon too as she seeks how to effectively participate in the seeking of solutions on behalf of everyone involved.

Production of Deditos continues at a strong pace. Episode 5, "Joseph and His Brothers", continues filming with excellent results. Episode 6 tells of God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt. It is scripted and in the midst of recording the actor's voices. Both episodes promise to be powerful programs that will introduce viewers to some of the most amazing displays of God's character and power in all of human history. Thanks for praying even now for the people who will experience these stories in the months and years to come, many for the very first time in their. Pray for the right like-minded ministry partners to come along to help with the production costs. Pray for the small but faithful production team here as together we strive to maintain excellence and high ministry impact with limited personnel and resources. Pray for the partners around the world who God will bring to us who will dub the programs into their own languages and get the programs seen. Finally, pray for God to soften viewers' hearts and open minds up to receive what He purposes to do through these timeless stories from His Word.

Hurricane Irene recently kept us all tuned to our news sources as it passed through North Carolina where the Gowan newlyweds had just barely set up their new home. Three very large and heavy trees (60 footers plus!) were either snapped in two or uprooted to come crashing down in their yard, but there was virtually no

damage to Caleb and Nancy's personal property. We all marveled both at God's power, and His grace.

Finally, a note of encouragement to those who I know have been praying diligently about our finances. Due to several one-time gifts, our 41 long-term faithful supporters (some of who even increased their giving recently!) and 8 brand new partners in ministry, we returned to Guatemala with zero deficit and 100% of our monthly required amount. That sentence seemed so easy to write, but when I reflect on all that it means, I have a hard time knowing how to put into words just how blessed I feel in my heart. "Thank you" seems so inadequate, though it certainly is one of the thoughts that come to mind as I put names and faces to those numbers. But somehow even more than the overwhelming sense of gratitude, those words evoke a re-energized commitment to make the most of every opportunity to do what I can in my little part of the Kingdom as I respond to the opportunities God places before me. Working to produce TV and film that shares God's love and truth... training and working shoulder-to-shoulder with committed Latins and Mayans as true colleagues... living in this troubled yet beautiful part of the world... three kids and kids-in-law who love the Lord and each other... three precious, healthy granddaughters and two grandsons on the way...yeah, overwhelmingly blessed.

In Him

John (for Sharon)