



PURE RELIGION IS THIS: TO VISIT THE FATHERLESS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR AFFLICTION . . . JAMES 1:27

Guatemala Children's Mission Newsletter

News from Agua Viva Children's Home, Guatemala, Central America

Jan. 2010

Reaching Out for Christ

(Submitted by Jennifer Spatara)

Vacation from school provided another opportunity for Agua Viva to reach out with the Good News of Jesus Christ through Vacation Bible School (VBS). Nearly 150



children ages 4-12 participated, 110 of whom were from the Colonia. The theme for this inaugural year of VBS was "Exploradores de la Biblia" (Explorers of the Bible).

Our "explorers" discovered many stories in the Bible, helping them to understand more about our wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ. They also learned about a missionary born in Scotland, Mary Slessor. Mary's mother was a devout Christian, but her father was a drunkard and treated his family poorly. Sad but true, her story spoke to many of children as they related to their own family situations.

Miss Alma, a teacher at the Agua Viva School and the head of Christian Education, directed this year's VBS. She is also a student at Chimaltenango's Bible Seminary. Four volunteers from Miss Alma's church, Communion and Faith, and a volunteer from the seminary served as helpers.

The final day was a special celebration with piñatas for the children and a closing ceremony for the parents. Over 50 families came to see their little ones in the presentations and heard the message of Christ and His salvation. Everyone enjoyed a snack on the outdoor plaza after the ceremony.



Thanks to you and your support of Agua Viva, we are reaching more families for Christ.

Congratulations Graduates!

(Submitted by Jennifer Spatara)

What a blessing it was to see thirty-one children graduate from the Agua Viva School, twenty of whom were from the surrounding communities. Please keep these students in your prayers as they begin the next phase of their education, especially those who will be moving on from middle school to begin their career studies outside of Agua Viva.



Graduates from Kindergarten



Graduates from Elementary School



Graduates from Middle School

The Quinceañeras

(Submitted by Jennifer Spatara)

Quinceañera refers to the Latin tradition of celebrating the coming of age of girls turning 15. This year Luz María and Susy are our Quinceañeras!

These two girls took a trip to Guatemala City with Miss Evy to select the dresses, shoes, jewelry and



makeup to be used on their special day. Luz María found a lovely blue dress and Susy chose a pretty green one. They each chose a ring in commemoration of this important day.

The night before the event the girls wanted to spend the night at Miss Jennifer's so that they could keep their outfits a surprise to everyone. The day of the big event, it rained all morning, but once the celebration began, the rain stopped and sunshine poured down on the birthday girls. Family, friends, and co-workers were all there as Susy was escorted by Meme and Luz María by her brother, Eleazar.

The ceremony was filled with poetry, song, dance, and prayer. A special Bible message emphasized that our hearts should be pure, humble, contrite, and loving. Susy's grandmother placed the ring on Susy's finger while Luz María's mother did the honors for her. A delicious meal was served after the ceremony. Susy had special visitors from the United States: her sponsors of many years, Julie and Jaime Dunham. A fabulous unforgettable day for two very special young ladies was made possible by you, the supporters of Agua Viva.

A Thrilling Reward

(Submitted by Jennifer Spatara)



A special donation was made by the group, Sondance, from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to send 11 children from Agua Viva to an amusement park in Xetulu. The children served on the worship and dance teams and in the special service ministry group. The trip was a reward for their committed service to the Lord throughout the year.

It was an amazing adventure with memories that will last a lifetime. Very few children here in Guatemala get the chance to spend time at an amusement park. What a blessing to be able to provide these committed young people a bit of fun and leisure time.

Those who went on the trip were:

Gama, Israel, Hector, Joel, Ariel, Garcia, Wilson, Susy, Flor María, Yohana, and Sara. Thank you Sondance!



Agua Viva Fresh Brewed

(Submitted by Jennifer Spatara)

Work and planting continues on the Agua Viva Coffee Project. Over a thousand coffee plants have now been placed in shaded areas outside the back security wall.



Guatemala Children's Mission

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If you do not receive acknowledgement of your contribution of \$20 or more, please contact Mike Laughlin— laughmi@bellsouth.net

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