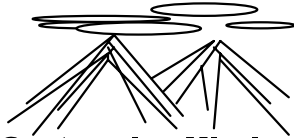


"Mountaintop"



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update

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WE'RE BUILDING AGAIN!

Dirt flew, as René and the two brothers (Justo and Factor) literally moved a small mountain of dirt adjacent to the existing parking lot. Next, a 36' wall to maintain the dirt doubling as the back wall for three preschool classrooms. After the wall, we continue the mission house. It's exciting to see progress again! Actually, there's been a lot accomplished. We have a temporary room for René and Diana in the storeroom, a false ceiling in the bathroom and one started in the bedroom, a wall dividing the living room and bedroom, a metal bed frame waiting for drawers, flowers planted, and three "quiet spots" cleared in the woods. We also have a pila sink nowso we have **officially** moved in!

TIMOTHY PROJECT

Calvary International has a new project in Guatemala helping missionaries get through culture shock, enrolling in Spanish classes, find housing, experience existing ministries, and placing them. They have visited us and now we covet one of the group. Her name is Connie, she has previous mission experience, teaching credentials, knows Spanish, and wants to be in a village. Join Calvary International, Connie and us as we pray for God's will in her life.

WHAT IS MINISTRY, REALLY?

I have been saved for nearly 15 years, have listened to more than 2,000 sermons, attended weeks of camp meetings. In 1989, entered full-time ministry and have read all the RIGHT books on ministry. I long to "**MINISTER**" in a God-fearing, life-changing way. I love to disciple new Christians and share the Good News with the unchurched. Equipping the Saints and Evangelism is part of ministry, but what **IS** ministry, really?

The American Heritage Dictionary says that ministry is: TO SERVE. Ah! Now that's a horse of a different color. When Maria, the schizophrenic knocks on my door with a handful of half dead wildflowers I look into her eyes and feel SUCH SADNESS, tears rush down my cheeks. I'm compelled to invite her in for coffee and cookies. She jabbars incoherently for 1 hour while mothering Carmelita, the stuffed doll, on her lap. When she leaves, I hug her with my whole heart and it is NOT politeness. When I see Marcelina's twisted bare feet walking on the cold, muddy road, I feel compassion, because **MY** feet are cold covered with both socks **and** shoes. Last night, her face was distorted with pain. The doctor didn't see her face, he just gave her a B 12 shot, the panacea for complaining **INDIGENOUS** women. After Children's Church in Xeparquiy, I noticed the pastor's wife had no strength, could barely breathe, her heart rate was rapid and irregular. She had pneumonia in ½ of one lung and emphysema and TB scars covering the rest. This time medicine helped, but from the time a woman is born here, she breathes thick smoke and thin air. I visited a tightly bundled baby with a high fever and explained that too many clothes increase the fever. The women need basic teaching about health. Ministry has many faces on our mountaintop in Guatemala. Lord, help me not to miss one of the faces. What **IS** ministry, really?