

News letter Aug 97

I can't believe how much you can fit in one car! When we left Clearwater to start our round-robin trip back to Guatemala, we were full. Yet, stop after stop our supporters kept giving and in faith, we kept stuffing. Finally, with one overhead carrier, two rubbermaid action packers, and our spare tire strapped to the car, we reached the U.S - Mexican border.

The man who processed the papers to pass the border was very nice until he told us to take everything out of our car for inventory. We needed each item listed to exempt us from paying import tax. Five and one half hours later, we were ready to go, but it was late, so we decided to start fresh in the morning.

Traveling through Mexico with our papers completed gave us a feeling of relief. Each time we were stopped, we would just show them our four page approved list of items and they would smile and say pass. Then, two hours from the U.S. border, one official noticed they forgot to give us personal visas. He said that we must return to the border and have our passports stamped. Praying, keeping in mind ---"Don't let the sun go down on your wrath", knowing I had eight more hours of sun, I asked him "Please do something here. Only fifty pesos (about seven dollars), passports stamped, we were on our way again.

The rest of our trip was wonderful! Traveling only by day, we were able to enjoy the beautiful scenery and cities of Mexico. Every night we would bring our outside luggage and spare tire into our room, which made sleeping restful.

Back in Panimaquin May 31st one day ahead of schedule, we were greeted by René, Diana, Connie and the rest of the village. It felt so good to be home . With the help of the village children, we unloaded the car for the last time.

After several busy weeks with the church's anniversary, team visits, and roofing , I told René I felt like a much older version of myself. Then, the fever came. I was layed up a couple of days and had lab tests confirming Hepatitis A. Thank the Lord for type A it's less life threatening, but I wouldn't recommend it! We were isolated in a little hotel room with ample hot and cold water and *cable TV*. Tight living quarters, Connie sharing our bathroom and Diana pregnant, we thought it prudent. Now, only one problem, I need at least 4 to 6 weeks rest after the symptoms disappear. I've been told things could have been a lot worse!

Thanks for all the prayers and phone calls, they really lifted my spirits!

With the love of Christ,
Bernard and Trish