

Guatemala, Central America



MENNONITE *Air* MISSIONS

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy" Psalm 126:5.

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March, April 2013

Photo Album of Current Mission Staff

El Naranjo

Jeff & Crystal Yoder
pastor the church in
Santa Rosita, our
northern-most outpost.



Antonio Elam Yoder was
welcomed into the
world by Jeff and Crystal
and brother Alex on
December 26, 2012.



Melody Showalter
serves with the team in
El Naranjo.



Janet Myers is a nurse at
the clinic in El Naranjo.



Yolanda Miller works
in the pharmacy in the
clinic in El Naranjo.



Dorcas Miller is serving as
head nurse in El Naranjo.

El Chal



Edgar & Sadie Frey are
houseparents in El Chal.



Julia King works in
the clinic in El Chal.



Judy Lehman has com-
pleted her training and is
now a certified school-
teacher in El Chal.



Tiana Kennedy works
in the clinic in El Chal.



EDITORIAL

by Stephan Gingerich

Shining Castles Built of Mud

Since boyhood I have enjoyed fixing things up. Well, not really fixing things because I am not a mechanic. (Yeah, I can hear some of you laughing!) I loved to buy old BMX bicycles at garage sales for \$10.00, fix them up, and get them working and looking as nice (to me at least) as my friend's shiny new one that cost him \$68.00. I loved spending time in the basement with my Dad's primitive tools, turning scraps of oak into key chains and name plates that my friends would trade money for. I built a cabinet for my mom out of rejected materials from the shop where I worked. One man's junk became another man's treasure.

I still live my hobby. Most days, I love my job. I get to work with people. I watch losers that over a period of several years become winners. Chained sinners become free. Lazy and complacent TV watchers become zealous in building His kingdom. Ignorant peasants with addictions emerge as Christian school teachers and pastors. I am part of the process . . . and I am still being processed.

It is amazing to me that God uses mud to build His eternal kingdom. *"For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust"* (Psalm 103:14). Mud is the product when dust is baptized. Look at Psalm 78:38-39: *"But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath. For he remembered that they were but flesh . . ."* Doesn't that perfectly describe our Saviour? Full of compassion. Forgiving of iniquity. Turning His anger away at OUR obnoxious behavior, OUR shortcomings, OUR failures. He is very careful not to stir up ALL His wrath. If He did, we wouldn't stand a chance, but be consumed.

Have you ever stopped to evaluate His team? His disciples were a mess. Think of Peter. Can you imagine working with him all day, every day? And they didn't have toothpaste or deodorant back then, either. What about the scheming, self-righteous, ambitious sons of Zebedee? Oh, help! Don't you think that some days Jesus wished He could just do the Father's will all by Himself? And then there was

Thomas. Imagine this: The Creator of the entire universe, the One who hung Pluto in space long before it no longer qualified to be a planet, more than once had to provide proof for Thomas to believe. Thomas needed to see it first. He was a total "I-don't-do-instructions" kind of fellow. Jesus showed him lovingly that what He had been telling him for months was actually true. But all of them—Peter, James, John, and Thomas—became saints in His Eternal Kingdom, Pillars of the Early Church. Mud.

Maybe I'll lose you, but let's head to the Old Testament for some examples of Mud that helped to build His shining and everlasting Castle. Moses, the murderer. Jacob, the thief. Rahab, the harlot. And Samson, who was all of the above. Would these people even have made it through MAM's application process? They look more like names on a Wanted List, rather than Heroes of the Faith or tools in His hand.

I get a little uncomfortable when people call me "the missionary from Guatemala." The term sounds too noble to describe someone like me. I am learning to accept the title, however. I saw "missionary" from a new perspective the other day as I pondered the life of "the first missionary" that our Lord commissioned (Luke 8:26-40). This man wanted to be with Jesus and to be one of His disciples too, but Jesus sent him away to his own house to show what great things God had done for him. This unlikely candidate did the work of John the Baptist in his home community. Verse 40 tells us that when Jesus returned to that place, the people gladly received him, because they were all waiting for him.

And that's what we are all called to do, isn't it? To serve. To have others waiting to meet Him when He comes back again. To demonstrate the difference He has made in our life. To build His shining, everlasting Castle with mud.

Lord, help me to be fuller of Your compassion, more ready to forgive the iniquities of those around me. Help me to turn my anger away when others fail. Give me Your love and Your Spirit today, I pray. Amen.

El Chal



Benj & Holly Martin are serving in El Chal, supporting the work of the clinic and church.



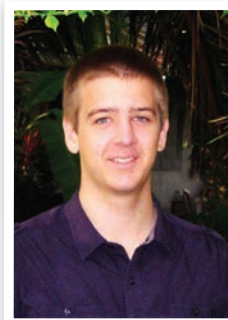
Waneda Erb has been the school secretary in El Chal for the past few years.



Lydia Zook is a personal worker in El Chal.



Stephan & Brenda Gingerich live in El Chal where Stephan pastors the church and heads up the school while parenting three native boys.



Jason Bauman served for 6 months as V.S. worker in El Chal.

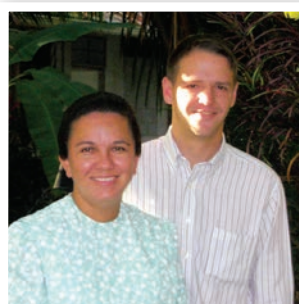


Ricky Martin arrived in January as the new V.S. worker in El Chal.

Guatemala City



Larisa Good works in domestics at headquarters in the city.



Daniel & Dora Eby are stationed in the city, where Daniel helps Victor Ovalle with church-related work.



Craig Martin has been serving in the city as V.S. worker.



Tim & Rhoda Korver are house-parents at headquarters.



Lee Burkholder works with Craig in the city and keeps the mission vehicles running smoothly.



Mark & Norma Gingerich are stationed in the city but travel to many different outposts overseeing bishop responsibilities.

Guatemala City



Roy and Miriam Biehn live in Guatemala City, where he serves as business administrator.



Danny & Linda Beachy are stationed near the city assisting in various aspects of outreach, and Danny pilots the mission plane.

Oratorio and Pasaco



Linden Wadel, Steve Steckley, and Wendell Diem (l-r) live in Oratorio, supporting the local church, mentoring youth, and reaching out to the community.



Melanie Mummert is now stationed in Oratorio, after serving for several years in El Chal as a personal worker.



Ross & Donnita Good serve as pastor, do outreach work in Pasaco, and are involved with mission administration.

Financial Statement for Mennonite Air Missions

January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

Beginning Balance	55,990.92
Income	556,085.13
Actual Operating Income	612,076.05
Loan Income	55,000.00
Total Income	667,076.05
Disbursements	
Literature	3,497.06
Newsletter	6,634.71
Travel	6,626.08
Retirement and Medical	5,031.12
Worker allowances block	196,906.41
Bank & miscellaneous charges	1,224.64
Farm & Conference property	0.00
Transfer to field	301,980.79
Supplies	558.53
U.S. checks for Guatemala funds	7,178.77
Actual Operating Disbursements	529,638.11
Loan Repayment	55,000.00
	584,638.11
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$82,437.94
	Amos Hurst

Thank You

We appreciate each of our supporters, and we thank you for your faithful giving even through tougher financial times.

MAM Website

Please visit our new website at mennoniteairmissions.org, where you can browse old newsletters, sign up for updates, read our mission statement, and more.

Please make donations payable to "Mennonite Air Missions" and send to: Mennonite Air Missions, c/o Amos Hurst, 140 Rothsville Station Rd., Lititz, PA 17543.

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