



"Connecting and Advancing Leaders in Mission and Service...to Win the Lost for Christ"

January 2009

Blessed to Be a Blessing!

As we begin a new year, we want to thank you for standing with us so that we can together be a blessing to the many hurting and lost people in Central America.

Here is a partial list of how God has blessed CALMS so that we in turn were able to be a blessing. We thank God that during 2008 with His help and yours, we were able to:

- Build 12 houses for poor people in Guatemala and repair four houses in Gualan and Zacapa, Guatemala.
- Bring relief effort to families who lost homes and crops in La Union, Guatemala due to a landslide.
- Send 23 short-term teams to serve in Central America to reach the lost and help the hurting.
- Provide financial support to national churches and congregations for special projects.
- Provide scholarships to children in Panama who might otherwise be able to study.
- Provide seminars and workshops to help Central American churches grow in self-

reliance and reach out to lost and hurting people.

- Help begin a new medical ministry in Guatemala in partnership with “Castillo Fuerte” congregation and Dr. Elry Orozco and his brother Dr. Abdiel Orozco.

Ready to Serve in Central America!



Left: Pastor Miguel Torneire congratulates former member, Mildred de Perez, who received the gift of a new bathroom and roof through a CALMS team in August 2008.

Right: Pastor Miguel and his wife Diane in St. Louis where he is now living and studying English!

Pastor Miguel Torneire is CALMS new missionary-at-large for Central America. Pastor Miguel served for four years as a missionary pastor at “Iglesia Luterana Divino Salvador” in Zacapa, Guatemala. Originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Pastor Miguel studied at the Lutheran Seminary in Brazil and in Buenos Aires, Argentina where he learned Spanish prior to moving to Guatemala to serve from August, 2004 to August, 2008.

While in Guatemala, he helped his congregation share the Gospel with the local community and worked with CALMS to help develop a growing housing program and relief efforts to help people who lost their homes in landslides earlier this year.

For the past two years, he participated with his congregation’s president and CALMS’ partners in short-term ministry to Belize in order to reach out to the Spanish speaking people who have moved there from Guatemala.

Pastor Miguel is currently exploring ways to expand Lutheran work to other parts of Guatemala where there are no Lutheran churches.

In 2009, CALMS plans to work with the Lutheran Church in Guatemala to further develop CALMS’ housing ministry and to help plant new congregations in areas where there are no Lutheran churches. He will also help our partner church in Panama to reach out with the Gospel in Costa Rica.

Pray for Pastor Miguel as he continues to learn English and begins his new ministry with CALMS and continues to reach out to lost people and help the hurting in Central America!

Short Term Mission Opportunities in 2009

CALMS works closely with national churches and missionaries to develop strategic short-term projects. We have some standard projects such as our "house construction" projects and "medical" projects in Guatemala. Working with US and Central American partners, CALMS designs projects that meet the needs of the mission field and take into account the gift mix of the North American short-term group. In this way, we seek to develop "win-win" projects.

Currently, CALMS facilitates short-term projects in Belize, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Panama. Beginning in 2009, we are also planning to send several teams to Venezuela.

CALMS seeks to create projects that encourage US partners and Central American Christians to work side-by-side to accomplish strategic ministry. We also work hard to develop projects that help build the capacity of our Central America partners to do their ministry more effectively.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact us at calms@calms.org.



A recent house dedication in Guatemala brought partners together to change lives and encourage the local church.

Three Good Reasons Why You and Your Congregation Should Partner with CALMS:

CALMS is eager to help you & your congregation develop and use your spiritual gifts to impact the world through participation in short-term service, financial support of strategic mission projects and your prayers. In the process, CALMS can help you and your congregation become a hands-on missionary church and to foster a missionary spirit, life-style among your members.

1) CALMS is ready to work with your congregation to equip your leaders to minister effectively in another culture and to link your short-term volunteers to hurting and sick people in Central America. In the process, your congregation will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are doing work that is providing much needed spiritual growth, housing and health care.

2) CALMS designs strategic projects involving mixed teams of national workers with North American short-term volunteers to build capacity and accomplish effective ministry. For example, CALMS recently recruited two Christian counselors to provide much needed training for 30 pastors in Belize. CALMS is presently helping facilitate strategic short-term teams to Guatemala to provide much needed housing and medical care for needy people. CALMS' projects benefit both North American volunteers and Central Americans with whom we work.

3) CALMS is ready to work with you and your congregation to provide scholarships for children who might not otherwise be able to continue their education. We also equip national pastors and workers to grow their churches, provide opportunities for national workers to see new mission models, fund projects to help build the capacity of national churches, provide spiritual, emotional and prayer support for national missionaries and facilitate strategic planning for national churches.

Have a Blessed New Year as You Join God in His Mission of Love and Care!

Thank you for supporting CALMS with your prayers, letters of encouragement, your time, talent and your treasure! If you are able to help our ministry financially, please use the on-line giving option by clicking on the giving button with this message or send a check to CALMS at 11906 Manchester Road, Suite 110 St. Louis, MO 63131.



“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News” (Romans 10:15)