



CENTRAL
AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
MISSION
SOCIETY



**“Connecting and Advancing
Leaders in Mission and Service
to Win the Lost for Christ.”**

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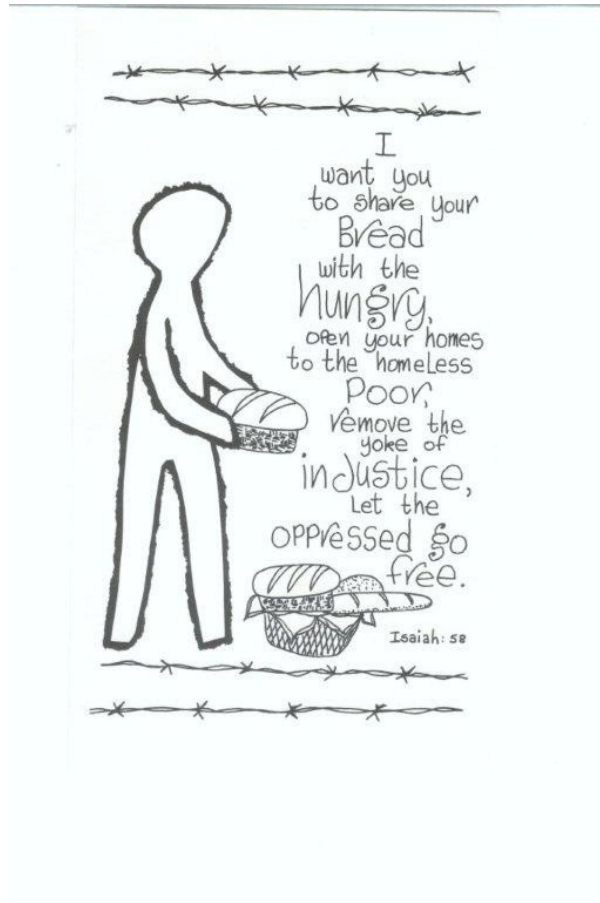
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December 2009

Recently a friend of mine shared the following story originally told by Corrie Ten Boom, an amazing Christian woman who was used by God to encourage others including her sister Betsie while prisoners in a Nazi death camp. I think this story helps us understand what Thanksgiving is really all about for us as Christians.

Corrie and her sister Betsie were forced to take off all their clothes during inspections at a death camp. Corrie stood in line feeling defiled. Suddenly she remembered that Jesus hung naked on the cross as he died for the sins of the world. Struck with a deep feeling of thankfulness during her forsaken moment, Corrie leaned forward and whispered to her sister, "Betsie, they took Jesus clothes off too." Betsie replied, "Oh Corrie, and I never thanked him for that."

Thanksgiving is our recognition of what our Savior Jesus has done for us. Since we are the objects of His grace, let Him be the object of our gratitude!

At this time of year, we remember and give thanks to the Lord of the Harvest not only for blessing our fields, orchards and places of work, but also for the living harvest of men, women and children, brought out of spiritual darkness into His marvelous light.

And we thank you--our partners in the mission that God has entrusted to us in Central America--for your prayers and financial support during this amazing year filled with so many blessings!

Here are just a few of the many blessings God has granted CALMS during this year:

- Being able to encourage new Christian workers like Demetrio who is planting a new church in Los Nubes and Pastor Jose Angel who is starting new outreach near his home in Rio Rita, Panama.
- Building more than a dozen new homes for needy families in Guatemala.
- Sending Miles and Elma Richmond to serve as housing consultants to our Guatemalan partners.
- Supporting Dr. Elry Orozco and “Santa Cruz” Clinic in Amatitlan, Guatemala with short-term medical teams and supplies to serve many sick and needy families.
- Sending over 30 short-term mission teams to serve with our Central American partners.
- Being able to add Pastor Miguel Torneire as a new missionary-at-large to serve with CALMS in Central America.
- Developing new formal partnerships with Central American congregations and other entities to advance God’s mission.
- Equipping over 30 Belizean leaders to provide Christian counseling and helping them form a new organization, the Belize Association of Christian Care-giving, to foster on-going equipping for quality care-giving.

- Forming a Belize missionary team and an American missionary support team in preparation for sending a new volunteer to Belize in 2010.

As we move now from Thanksgiving to Advent—a special time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ—we watch and pray for...”Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed...” Romans 13:11.

May God richly bless you and your family as you celebrate His coming, and may he who came into our sinful world to be born as a baby, be reborn in your heart!

Your co-worker in Christ,



Pastor Steve Hughey, CALMS' Executive Director



A CALMS' team helped equip Belizean Christian leaders in November 2009 to lead missional small groups to help grow their church in Lord's Bank

near Belize City.

Equipping leaders for mission and service

In our CALMS' ministry we seek to equip leaders for mission and service.

As we equip we do not seek to merely inform, instruct or teach since that implies a focus on facts and does not always lead to appropriate action.

Equipping on the other hand involves helping others learn in order to apply that knowledge to a set of problems or to accomplish missional goals like helping others know Jesus, grow as a disciple or meet a specific human need.

Pray for us...

Pray for CALMS' worker retreat in Guatemala later this month to help encourage these leaders and plan for our ministry in 2010.



Remember in your prayers Ramiro, Ramiro Peñate (left) and his wife Marubene and Miles Richmond and his wife Elma (right) as they serve God's people through CALMS' housing ministry in Guatemala.

Thank God for the opportunity he has given CALMS to help the village of Campanero La Avanzada near La Union, Guatemala where many lost their homes and a number of people lost their lives. (This is the village that was most affected by the land-slides near La Union in the summer of 2008.) Ask the Holy Spirit to guide our efforts as we work with this struggling community to finish a multi-purpose building that will provide space for a medical clinic, small group meetings and extra class-rooms for their very overcrowded school. Over 275 children are presently jammed into a small school building appropriate for around 60 students.



Some children in this crowded school in Campanero La Avanzada, Guatemala must study in the hallway. A new building will help these children and their teachers have a more effective learning environment.