

July News

July 16, 2010

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have been back a week and it has rained continuously. Last Saturday we had a horrendous thunder storm which felt like it was sitting on top of our house. Thunder storms do not usually make me nervous but I cringed for an hour until it was over. It is dengue season and the hospital is full and there are no more beds. Very sick people are being sent home instead of sleeping in the hallways. H1N1 is also hitting this community. We don't think of summer time being flu season but it is down here. We both had H1N1 shots in February so we will be fine. I have a parishioner who had a TIA and there were no beds so he went home. I have another parishioner with bad asthma and now she has pneumonia and there is no bed for her so she is home with a shunt in her arm and she goes to the clinic to get the IV put in her arm.

Right now people are gathering in the street waiting. There was an accident in Waspam. The driver of the truck is the driver for ADSIM. He was traveling with a truck load of people. There was an accident and I have heard that five people are dead. News spreads fast and now the families are out in the street waiting and grieving and hoping all at the same time...in the rain.

The rainy season brings with it different kinds of challenges. Mold grows quickly and clothes and shoes don't dry easily. There are less ants but more mosquitoes. The plants grow like crazy and so do the weeds. The roads are full of potholes and many spots are flooded because of the clay-like soil so drainage is difficult. So both riding in taxi's or walking is challenging because you have to move from one side to the other to avoid huge puddles and pot holes.

Don still manages to ride his bike to work but he comes home with mud on his back at times. He has to be extra careful to not slip on the mud. I have to be careful to watch the sky before I head off to visit someone and always remember to take the umbrella. All of these things continue to make life interesting.

I am still teaching at the school and the children are actually beginning to put together short sentences. It is rewarding at times. This afternoon a group of them began to play soccer in the yard and I played with them for about 30 minutes. I played defense so I did not have to run! My team won...the boys thought it was funny to play against an old lady and pastora to boot. Our English club on Saturdays has less students but they are learning very fast. They are motivated and want to learn. Last Saturday we spent 30 minutes having a conversation and they could all ask and answer simple questions. They seem to be really enjoying themselves.

Our Godson Edward is visiting for a bit and learning about Nicaragua. We are going to take a week's vacation and we are going to Guatemala. We are all keen to see some Mayan Ruins.

I am setting up an appointment to visit with Rev. Gonzalo some time next week I hope. We are expecting a mission group from Sherwood Quebec soon. They will be here from Sept 8th to the 18th. Our UN project is just about finished. We get one more cheque this week and finish off with one more day of cooking. It has been a godsend because we were able to get a new fridge and lots of kitchenware plus we got the electrical lines repaired. I will be glad when it is finished because it is a lot of paperwork. We also got a DVD stereo and a guitar so now we have extra music..The workshops were a huge success. Don really enjoyed them as well.

The prices of most staples goods have double in the past month. The native people are blocking the road from Rosita so the trucks can't get through. The issue is autonomy and the government refuses to sit down at the table. So the activists keep fighting and get little support from those around them. I feel so amazed and yet sad that they keep fighting for autonomy. The conflict is hard on everyone. I hope that at some point all the players will come to the table with sincerity and get some issues resolved..

Some happy news for our congregation is that all the new- to -us hymn books have arrived and we are going to dedicate them next Sunday and I also have a baptism at the evening service. Our Bible Study is going really well. This week we were studying Genesis and talking about what happens when we experience chaos in our lives. One woman told a powerful story about when her son was killed. She cried as she told us the story and we talked about how this kind of chaos can block our ears to God's voice. Most people have lost a member of their family.

So we are glad to be home and we received a warm welcome. Lots of hugs and kisses which was really nice. Life goes on and we embrace each day welcoming what ever wonderful or crazy thing is going to happen next. It is still thundering!

In Christ

Deborah and Donald