Semana Santa, SARF, and a Volcano

April 6, 2013

Fun Facts

The most celebrated day of Holy Week in Guatemala is Good Friday. Our teachers told us that by Sunday, everyone is tired and out of money so there isn't as much emphasis on Resurrection Sunday.

Vulcan Pacaya is one of the more famous volcanoes in Guatemala. It erupted 3 years ago and tourists are no longer allowed to climb to the crater.

Holy Week (Semana Santa) is the biggest celebrated holiday in Guatemala. The second most important holiday is Christmas.

Taking a Break

As we neared our break week, things were getting rough. Our brains started shutting down, the novelty of learning Spanish was wearing off, and Missy decided it would be a good idea to hike a volcano!

Holy Week is a big deal in Guatemala. Businesses shut down, families pay a lot of money to create "carpets" made of colored sawdust in the streets, and everyone pauses from their normal lives to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. It is quite a spectacle! Our school was closed for two days out of the week anyway, so we decided to take advantage of this time and relax.

We were able to visit families that are being ministered to by the Serving At Risk Families ministry through Servants. The picture above is of two wonderful ladies who own a little store selling snacks and things to survive. Jon, our local counterpart and fellow missionary with Servants, already had

We are on the lookout for a car.
Do you think this is what we should get?

These are some pictures we took at the top of the volcano. The wind made it a bit chilly, so Missy climbed inside a crater to soak up some of the mountain's natural heat!

bags of food made up for these families. Thanks to you, our faithful supporters and prayer warriors, we were able to help purchase some items to fill the bags and visit some of them!

Afterwards, we were able to meet the owner of a house that Jon met who is eager to rent her house as she is leaving Guatemala to live with her children in the U.S. We feel greatly blessed by this family. The house is perfect in location, safety, and size for our ministry needs and best of all, it fits our budget! She is willing to hold the house until July when we are ready to move in. God continues to open doors and provide for us, even

when we least expect it.

On Good Friday, we were able to meet with Pastor Jorge and his family. He invited us to join them for lunch and afterwards we sat down and discussed plans for the future. We mainly talked about Jorge's wife, Anny, and her need for someone to help as she pursues court cases to defend those who have no voice: abused women and children. We also talked about the expansion of their Celebrate Recovery program to help children and women and to broaden the scope of the ministry to include all hurts, habits, and hang-ups. He then invited us to return bright and early for their sunrise service on

Resurrection Day. It was a bit chilly but it was a wonderful experience!

We spent the rest of the weekend with the children at the children's home. They recently took in about 7 more children who are in the process of adjusting to their new lives. It continues to amaze us how God brings them through these horrible situations and gives them healing and refuge! We cannot imagine enduring these things ourselves, let alone at the age of 5,6,7, or 8.

After a long Easter Sunday we finally made it back to Antigua. Our time away from language school taught us that we must keep

Our teachers started playing Spanish Scrabble with us to test our knowledge. Here, Missy is displaying her prowess by showing her winning score.

going as there is much more for us to learn, even though spending time with the people we will be working with made it difficult for us to leave Villa Nueva.

We continue to feel blessed for the opportunity God has given us to serve Him in this way. We are grateful for your continued love. Please continue to pray for us as we

work towards the goals that God has set before us.

In His Love,

Dylan and Missy Brobst

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