

On the go with the Bedfords



Resting and Filling (by Karin)

Pray with us:

- We thank God for the wonderful retreat we had and the time to rest.
- We are grateful for our kids in Germany! Pray for their future. Samuel returns to Japan in January.
- Pray for the Christmas festival, that women and children understand the meaning of Christmas and follow Jesus with a whole heart.
- Pray for the next marriage seminar in San Miguel Dueñas.
- Pastor Juan Carlos turned 50 this week! Pray for a house for Miriam and Juan Carlos and good and affordable plot of land for the church .
- For our health and strength to live out our calling here.



We just came back from a seminar/retreat and we learned a lot, and it was also a good time to relax and talk. Many of the themes are so important that we will be talking about them for some time and figuring out how to apply them.

What was the main point? We are called to serve God out of a deep relationship with Him. God promises to give us life in abundance, but we must come into His presence, seek Him in the silence, take time to hear Him and receive from Him. Only then can we give out of our fullness and serve others. If we serve without learning to rest in Jesus, then we will just burn out. We need to learn to rest, that is how we

were made by God!

So we took time for a day, our day of rest, to visit a lavender farm in the mountains. We enjoyed the beautiful surroundings, the vistas down into the valley and on the mountain slopes. It was a wonderful place to be still and pray, talk together and eat together.

We have a couple of intensive weeks ahead of us. At the moment, we have 2 youth camps at our centers, Antigua and Guatemala City. The kids coming to Antigua are from a church from Port San José from the Pacific coast. They are a neat bunch of kids and they'll keep us busy! The other is a mini Discipleship Training School for teens. We also have our Christmas Festival in December for the combined Women's group and Kids Club. And we are preparing our teaching for our 2nd marriage seminar at Juan Carlos' church. We are seeing God calling families and the younger generations to be lights and win people for Jesus.



Entrusting the Next Generation (by Joe)

“Next year, I am going to lead the DTS (Discipleship Training School)!” Alex told us.

“Fantastic! We are praying for the people to sign up for it soon and that they’ll be thirsty and eager to grow and go!” I said, wishing that I could be a part of school staff.

We have known Alex for a long time. Seven years ago, we encouraged him to take part in a DTS and he got so much out of it! Afterwards he joined our staff and has been taking other courses in YwaM and developing his leadership skills.

He was pretty shy when he first came, but he has become more and more confident and faithful to God’s calling. Through the years, he has heard many times God telling him to share the gospel with youths, drawing them to Jesus. Alex is helping staff a DTS now and they came and visited various families with us from our women’s group, to pray for and encourage them. It was great to see the students pray with compassion and faith!

Karin and I have been mentoring and supporting Alex for years now and I am thankful to be like a father for him (his father died when he was 7 years old). It’s wonderful to see him grow. We hope to continue with him and others so that 2 Timothy 2:2 continues throughout many genera-



Alex and the students visiting Merida, one of the women in our group

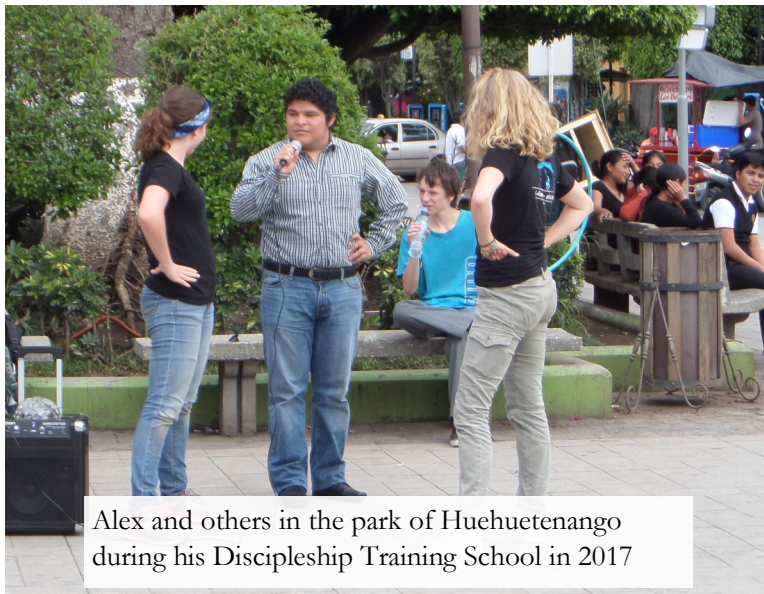
tions:

... and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (ESV)

We are praying for all of you, that God helps you to make disciples and teach them to reach out to others!

We hope you have a wonderful Advent season, filled with thankfulness that Jesus came to save us and will come to take us home with joy!

♥♥♥ Joe & Karin ♥♥♥



Alex and others in the park of Huehuetenango during his Discipleship Training School in 2017



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