



March 2011

"The fields are already White for harvest" John 4:35

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners  
Our love and greetings from Guatemala! Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

We write this newsletter to ask you all to stand with us in fervent prayer at this time. We are very aware of the spiritual forces at work in the violence, corruption and poverty that surround us daily as we seek to establish the Kingdom of God in this troubled and violent land.

*We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers.....against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly, spiritual sphere. (Ephesians 6:12 Amplified Version)*

According to the BBC and its latest documentary, Guatemala City is ranked in the top 5 most violent capitals in the world. We live very near, on the outskirts.

Even as this newsletter is being written, the following shocking incidents are everyday occurrences here in Santiago. We do not wish to distress you or sensationalize the danger we are in, but we are informing you a little of the environment in which we work.

**Today is March 1<sup>st</sup>** We arrived at El Refugio early this morning to begin another day in The King's School to learn that a man had been shot dead over the weekend. Then, the news came that a woman has just been stoned to death in the market just 100 yards from our mission. Her head was crushed with a stone drain cover. We are shocked - it is horrific and barbaric, but sadly, lynching is part of the culture in this violent land. As far as we know she had committed no crime.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Luke writing)** As I was giving the Word this evening in the youth meeting at Church there was a shooting just near the building. We heard 8 shots. Then, 10 minutes later, sirens. We carried on the service, knowing God is always protecting us. As we left 45 minutes after the shooting, we discovered one man had been shot 6 times leaving him dead, and one had been wounded. This happened just near the tienda in our block where we do our photocopying for the School. The violence is on the rise again now making it a Red Zone.

C. T. Studd (1860-1931) – English missionary to China, India and Africa said:- **Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell.**

**So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land...(Ezekiel 22:30)**

We so need you all to stand with us and build a wall of prayer and faith and intercede for the precious lives of the folk here for whom Jesus died.



This notice is now in the buses in Santiago - **Because of various extortion groups (gangs), we see the need to raise the value of the bus fare starting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2011, in every business to Q7.00 and to Q3.00 to avoid any further tragedies. Thank you for your cooperation.**

**BBC news dated January 4<sup>th</sup> 2011**

The death toll from a suspected bomb attack on a bus in Guatemala City on Monday has risen to six, after one of those injured died in hospital.

A police spokesman said a woman had left the bomb on the bus and later detonated it by mobile phone. The victims include a 35-year-old woman and her two sons, aged three and 11.

Mr Gonzalez said a faction of the Mara 18 gang was suspected of being behind the blast. Guatemala's public transport is subject to regular extortion.

Guatemalan police estimate that bus drivers paid out more than \$1.5m (£970,000) in extortion money over the period to organised crime groups, who demand a "circulation tax" for those driving through their areas.

Local human rights groups say that between January and November 2010, 119 bus drivers and 51 other transport workers were murdered.

**In the BBC news, Guatemala has been classified as a failed state.**

***In Him was Life and the Life was the Light of men. And the Light shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it. (John 1:4-5 Amplified Version)***

**The Mission is expanding! – La Casa de Los Angelitos**



***La Casa de Los Angelitos - The House of the Little Angels***

With 50 little children and no more space anywhere, we needed to rent another building! We found a building, but when the time came to start it was not ready, so we had to pray for another place to rent! Linda specifically asked the Lord for *a haven, a homely place*. God is so good! He has provided a house just two doors away from El Refugio! Praise the Lord! It is perfect, and plans are to build a second floor with a roof which would become another place for the Church as we have long outgrown the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of El Refugio!



***Linda's wonderful team –we read the Bible and pray every morning before we start the Pre-School. Most of the ladies are illiterate, but they are learning with the children. Mission Guatemala pays their wages which helps them feed their children and themselves from week to week.***



***Some of the little angels***



***Parents queuing to bring their children***



***Linda receiving the new children***



**The Pre-school is a very important tool for Outreach into the community. Through this work, we not only touch the lives of many precious little children, but many adults as well who are trying to bring up their children in an environment surrounded by much violence, fear and extreme poverty.**

**Special Family Day - December 19th funded by Mission Guatemala**



*Praise time for the children*



*Presents for everyone!*



*Couple of photos of the Christmas Carol Service - Dec. 23rd*

*My eyes fail with tears, my heart is troubled....because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.....Pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift your hands toward Him for the life of your young children who faint from hunger at the head of every street. (Lamentations 2:11, 19)*



*Jesús is 4 years old, but he has no mother, and is brought to Pre-School by an older 8 year old brother. You can help us support children like him on the Learning Support Programme – details overleaf.*



*Celebrating 5 years on February 14<sup>th</sup> of the opening of El Refugio Centro Cristiano*



### **Running for Mission Guatemala!**

Linda's brother, Bob Goddard, is running the Paris Marathon on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 in aid of Mission Guatemala. If you would like to sponsor him as an individual, or as a church or group, and help change lives in Guatemala, please contact:-

**Mr. David Goddard  
6, Staplehurst  
Avenue, Broadstairs,  
Kent. CT10 1SH  
Tel: 01843 863621**



### **Looking to the Future**

*Susana is a born teacher. We are paying for her and others to complete their education to become future leaders in the work. Susana tells us that it is a dream come true! If you would like to help them study, please send gifts to Mrs. Diana Holmar →*



*Rebeca aged 5 years is severely autistic. She cannot speak, unable to use a toilet, and her movements are erratic and her co-ordination is poor. There is no provision made for any children like this in Guatemala, and her young mother is desperate.*

**Is there anyone trained in this area who would like to come and work with Rebeca and other children like her? There is such a need here. Please contact us if you are interested. The Lord bless you!**

### **Please Pray**

- For a move of the Holy Spirit to see the Kingdom of God established in Santiago bringing freedom from murder, violence and oppression by spiritual powers of darkness
- To see conviction by the Holy Spirit in the lives of gang members and men driven by alcohol, and their lives changed by the power and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
- To see a lifting-up and healing in the lives of many women who live in fear, oppression and violence
- For the Lord's provision in our finance as we reach out to so many needs

### **LEARNING/FAMILY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME**

**We have many children with no sponsors.** If you feel that you would like to help us by having personal input into the lives of the children that we work with in these Programmes (just £15 monthly), please contact SOPHIE:

**Miss Sophie Humphries  
46, Belmont Road,  
Westgate, Kent. CT8 8AY  
Tel:- 07988490178  
Email:- humphries\_sophiealicia@hotmail.com**

### **ALL OTHER SUPPORT**

**If you would like to send a donation for the Lord's work of Mission Guatemala,** please contact Diana of our home church at the address below. Donations should be made payable to 'Mission Guatemala' and send to her address:

**Mrs. Diana Holmar  
29, Hill View Road, Portchester, Fareham,  
Hants. PO16 8DB  
Tel:- 02392 367110  
Email:- dholmar@hotmail.co.uk**

### **OUR ADDRESS IS**

**Lote 92, 4a Calle, Los Alpes, San Lucas Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, Central America.**

**Email:- humphries\_missionguatemala@hotmail.com**

**Website:- www.missionguatemala.co.uk**

**Thank you for partnering with us in this family ministry – God's Family reaching out to touch the lives of others. May the Lord richly bless you all and meet your every need. With much love and blessings from Russ, Linda, Sophie and Luke.**



**Trinidad is just 3 years old – please pray for her well-being in this violent country**