

Guatemala at a Glance

Informe (year 4/ No.2) October/November 2011 (elections part 2)

"Out of an awareness of our own brokenness and the wounds of the world, WE ADORERS choose life for ourselves and for others by being a compassionate presence wherever need touches our hearts." ♥ (Statement of Adorers of the Blood of Christ at U.S. Regional Assembly October 2011)

Wounds of the world ... need touching our hearts ... for these reasons the ASCs continue to serve in Guatemala.

News: In late October the U.S. Regional Assembly of Sisters and collaborators took place in St. Louis, as well as participation from our three centers (Wichita, Kan.; Ruma, Ill.; and Columbia, Pa.). For three days we prayed, listened and shared as we prepare to select a new leadership team in 2012. We ask all of you to hold us in prayer as we make the choices which mean LIFE for those with whom and among whom we minister.

In Guatemala life can seem so very precarious. Yesterday finalized the election of the new president who will serve for the next four years, retired general Otto Perez Molina. There are many questions surrounding him and the role he played in the civil war and later. While we did have candidates for different offices who are part of the energy and new hope for Guatemala, unfortunately none of them were elected. But we are encouraged by the support they received and their willingness to put themselves out there. For in-depth coverage of the presidential candidates, please check out **The Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA** (<http://www.ghrc-usa.org/>).

Hard news: The mining situation continues to wreak havoc on local communities. Our local area San Pedro Ayampuc is one of the critical hot spots. The ecological arm of the Sangre De Cristo Healthcare project is at the forefront of providing education and organizing resistance to the abuses being committed against the land and Guatemalan poor. Please keep all in prayer. (For more information in general, go to youtube.com and search Marlin mine.)

Happier news: The Maria De Mattias Education Institute has finished the 2011 school year. We are now hosting "summer school" classes for those who would like to study here next year. Hopefully, entrance exams and registration will be completed in time to have a month of vacation in December. We closed the school year with a wonderful parents' meeting of more than 800 participants. The teachers presented a creative and entertaining play on the importance of working together to achieve the impossible. Kris was one of



the stars and played a most convincing role as an ambitious raindrop! We have a video copy if you're interested!

We are deeply honored by the news that Newman University in Wichita will be awarding us an **Honorary Degree in Humane Letters (Global Perspective)** for being examples of the university's core values and its global perspective. We value the connection we have with Newman University and its yearly on-site presence as volunteer servants. Dr. Dani?? Dr. Kris?? Wow.



Sad news: Our dear friend Dr. Alison Clarey died this past week. Alison was the first surgeon to offer service to the healthcare project for the yearly weeklong volunteer surgery program. It is impossible to **relate how many people's lives she touched** and changed for the better. Our only consolation is that she and another special friend and volunteer Kim Shepherd are now together watching over us.

So dear friends, we leave you in this Thanksgiving season with a deep-felt appreciation for each of you and the ways you allow "needs to touch your heart." Be assured of our gratitude and prayers. May your turkey be tasty!!!

Kris and Dani