

# **Updates for Mariano & Dominga**

## **June 2011**

Friends provided gifts to cover the remainder of Mariano and Dominga's hospital stay. Paid in full! How wonderfully the Lord has provided for his servants! The story of their lives is so different because God clearly intervened!

## **February, 2011**

We just got news that Mariano and Dominga were released from the hospital! Both are on crutches, but healing well.

Dominga had five pelvic fractures and dislocations, but did not need surgery. She was treated for serious anemia and possible malnutrition. Mariano was given seven days of IV antibiotics and daily dressings to the wound.

The total cost for all treatments, as well as the hospital stay was \$5,500. Amazing.

I continue to shake my head at the incredible hand of God in the lives of these faithful servants. His power knows no limits!

## **January, 2011: Mariano & Dominga's Story**

After lunch, we divided the CVCA students into three groups. Some played soccer, others went to the market to buy food, and some of us went to visit sponsored students with Vicky, our Q'eqchi translator. After we had made our planned visits, and still had some time, Vicky asked me, "Where now?" As I started to pull out my list of students, she suggested we visit this little guy who was walking beside us. I looked down to see Leonardo, sponsored by one of our CHCS families. He had joined in the group of children that was tagging along on our visits.

Vicky asked if I knew his story, and told me that both his parents had abandoned him as soon as he was born. His aunt and uncle, who is a pastor, have raised him ever since.

As we climbed the steep hill to Leonardo's house on the edge of a cliff, I

remembered the last time we visited this home we had an impromptu lively service in the church that is attached to their home.

When we got to the door of the home and started to go in, we were told that there were two sick people inside. We almost turned around, but they invited us in to pray for the sick. Once inside, we found Leonardo's uncle Mariano (whom he calls Dad) and a 23-year-old girl, Dominga, lying on wooden beds. As it turned out, they had been in an accident.

On Dec. 18, the family was coming home from a church service along with 24 people packed in the back of a pick-up. Although they didn't realize it when they got in, the driver was drunk and lost control on a curve and rolled the pickup. The injured passengers were taken four hours away to the best hospital in the area. Dominga, who was 9 months pregnant, lost her baby. They x-rayed her and released her, saying she had no broken bones. However, she still can't move without screaming in pain. She just lies on the wooden bed.

Mariano didn't seem so bad, as he just had a muslim rag with a little blood stain covering his leg from his knee down. When they said it wasn't broken, and asked if I'd like to see it, I agreed, having no idea of what I would find when I lifted the rag--an incredible sight, sickening actually. Indescribable.

Of course we prayed with the family, but I just couldn't pray and walk away. When we asked about the medicine they were all taking, I found out she has injections for pain every four days, along with some heat rub, both which were almost gone. He was taking no antibiotics and just had some salve to rub on the leg. The tube was the same as gone. They were out of money.

We all came away from this visit deeply impacted that God had just changed the course of our visitations and brought us up that hill to find a faithful pastor in such great need. It reminded me again that God knows no boundaries in meeting the needs of his faithful servants!!

## **Friday, January 7**

### **La Tinta**

We finally located a private doctor and clinic in a little town about an hour down the dusty road. The family carried Mariano down the steep path on a wooden stretcher. We decided not to take Dominga because of her pain level.

When we arrived at the clinic, the sight was straight out of a comedy movie. The doctor talked so fast and only wanted information pertinent to the wound. He was dressed in a t-shirt and lightweight sweat pants. The blood pressure cuff and

thermometer were from the 50's, but fortunately he did clean the thermometer with a cotton ball and alcohol.

To make a long story short, he took a look at the wound and gave Mariano a shot in each thigh for infection. He feels certain that Mariano will be fine if he continues the injections for six days, washes it with soap and water (although he didn't remind him to boil the water!), puts on a topical spray, and continues about three other medications.

Doming has had surgery to remove the baby that died on impact. Her shoulder and hip were xrayed at the free public hospital, and she was told there were no fractures, but no one here has any faith in the public hospitals. When the private doctor looked at the injections that the hospital gave her to take home and inject daily, he said she should only have one of those, that they are a steroid like weight lifters use, and there are severe side effects. He gave us a prescription for two other pills for her to take in their place.

In the meantime, we are getting lots of feedback from medical personnel in the States who have received the picture of this leg, saying it is very serious. We need to get further help for both Mariano and Dominga.

Thanks to some very incredible CHCS contacts, we have the offer of a missionary airplane to fly them both from La Tinta to upper Guatemala to a reputable hospital there, where the treatment would be by well-trained doctors who have been blessed by medical equipment from the US.

We are going tomorrow morning to visit the family to see if they are willing to go in the plane. They are indigenous, so this may be a stretch for them. We're praying that God will give them open minds. They came away from the doctor visit thinking that they were going to be just fine, and they may not be open to anything more.

**Saturday, January 8**

**10:00 a.m.**

**La Tinta**

The whole CVCA group just left our visit with Mariano and Dominga, who agreed to go to the hospital! It was very interesting to watch their decision making process. I felt like they were almost ready to deny the help because "they had gotten the wound cleaned out well in Coban (nearly three weeks ago!), and that made it look bigger like it is now."

But just as I could tell they were hesitating to take the plane ride, I said to the CVCA students in English, "This is a very crucial decision. Please pray." Within

seconds, their tone had changed and they decided to make the trip, in spite of their fear.

**Saturday, January 8**

**2:00 p.m.**

We're in the car, returning to Guatemala City from La Tinta (amazing that technology allows me to write as we drive through these dusty mountain roads!!) and I'm making connections to get the plane to come in.

I have been thinking today about the family who sponsors Leonardo. The wife was so impressed to sponsor Leonardo when she saw the picture of him several years ago after her husband returned from Guatemala. I just have to wonder if all this wasn't a part of God's plan to bring help to this pastor. It was this family that made the initial contact to a friend who knew of the hospital and had contacts with the missionary aviation. Without this contact, all this would not be happening. It helps me realize again that God knows no limits when caring for his faithful children.

**Sunday, January 9**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Peronia**

I just heard from Andres that the plane is enroute to La Tinta and that he has gotten special permission to fly into an airstrip on a private finca (ranch) close to La Tinta. Andres was also enroute to that airstrip in his rickety pickup to welcome the missionary pilot and take him to Mariano's house. All was well.

**Sunday, January 9**

**8:15 a.m.**

**Peronia**

Another phone call from Andres just came to tell me that the pilot couldn't find the airstrip and I needed to call the pilot and tell him the airstrip is 50 km from one little town and 40 km from another. Of course, that wasn't helpful at all to a pilot who needed coordinates. But in true Guatemalan fashion, the coordinates on the map for La Tinta were incorrect! Andres was having trouble "understanding the dear missionary in the airplane", so I needed to call to find out the coordinates for the field.

**Sunday, January 9**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Peronia**

A couple phone calls later. The owner of the finca is the only one who flies in and out of the field, and he has no clue what the coordinates are! Andres says La Tinta is by a river, maybe he can find it that way!! :-)

The pilot has been circling nearly an hour, can't find the airstrip on the finca, but has found another one close by. He has decided to land there, hoping to find someone who will guide him to the finca airstrip.

**Sunday, January 9**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Peronia**

He's there! Sure enough, someone accompanied him to the finca.

What a welcome awaited them. Because there is so much narcotic traffic in this particular area of Guatemala right now, the army was suspicious of this airplane and sent the captain of the army out to meet the plane when it landed. The missionary said he had a great welcome--Andres, the owner and all the workers from the finca, and even the captain of the Guatemalan army!!

**Sunday, January 9**

**11:00 a.m.**

Andres piled the missionary pilot and his friend into the rickety old pickup, picked up Mariano and Dominga, in great pain, and set them in the cabin of the plane in white plastic chairs, (double so they would be more secure!). Andres was elated as he watched the plane fly away.

**Sunday, January 9**

**12:00 a.m.**

The missionary pilot called to say they are just a few miles from the hospital!

**Monday, January 10**

**Peronia**

Andres called to say that Mariano had called him to report how wonderful everyone at the hospital had treated them, how they were so kind, and so quick to help. I'm sure his experience there was totally different from what he had experienced in the public hospital in Coban that had sent them home, telling Mariano to wash his leg with soap and water and telling Dominga she had no broken bones and only needed to go home and rest.

Another thing about this that is really exciting to me is that the missionary pilot said they are considering the possibility of a medical clinic in another rural area of Guatemala, and wondered if there was a need in La Tinta. After seeing how hard it was to get someone to see Mariano, and knowing that noone could pay the fee of the only private medical doctor we could find, there is no doubt in my mind that there is a huge need in this area. We talked about the possibility of setting up a clinic in the San Marcos School. I have no idea if this will work out, but yet another possible contact the Lord has put together!!

It has been absolutely amazing to watch how all this has come together. Isn't it incredible that God would put all this together for one humble little pastor living deep in the mountains of Guatemala?