



Update from COSTA RICA

June 2006

Now we have 6 months behind us in our new house, new village, new schools and new ministry challenges. We do feel at home in the tiny village of Corral de Piedra. The focus has definitely been building friendships with people and learning about living, life and culture in Guanacaste. Everything is very different from Heredia where we lived before. Even though we cannot give you a report of many converts and many things happening, we are very excited to see how the people and whole communities are opening up to us, learning to trust us and have responded positively to the projects the Lord has allowed us to do during the last months.

As a family we enjoy country life, the beautiful nature and living in a place with more freedom and security for the children. Home schooling has been challenging, but Troy is almost through the Finnish first grade. We are all happy and excited, watching Salla's belly grow little by little; our third child will be born late November.

MINISTRY IN THE SPRING

We saw the need and pretty soon after moving we started regular youth meetings in our home on Saturday nights. The kids are normal teenagers who love action and excitement, but there is absolutely nothing for them to do. We also realized that all of them have had very little or no Christian influence at all. We went house to house, started inviting the youth to our house for food, music, games, movies etc. We have had 12-23 youth every Saturday and through different activities we have been able to start sharing our faith in God with them. Please pray that the planted seeds would start growing in their hearts and that they would be even more hungry and open to the Gospel. Pray for wisdom and creativity for us as we plan and lead youth meetings.

Another starting point with the communities has been the local primary schools. We have been helping the two closest schools, one of 7 and other of 40 students. We have helped with practical work like fixing things and cleaning the yard, but also through teams and volunteers started teaching English to the students and now Salla is giving regular computer classes in the smaller school and helping to set up computer classroom and teaching in the other school. It has been a way to help the communities in practical but very impacting ways, the students share everything they hear and see with their families and the teachers are now very open to us also sharing about God in the schools.

In April we received a DTS outreach team from the base in Heredia for a week. They helped us in many ways before they flew out to Israel. In early May we had a team visiting from Minnesota. 6 amazing women sacrificed one week from their families and work to come and serve the communities and us in Guanacaste. They totally fixed up the school in our home village and also donated a computer for the school. Among other things they cut hair in many communities, shared with children, visited an orphanage, distributed food for 100 families. It was a busy week, but such a blessing!

The first weekend in May we were part of organizing a community fair in a village called Caballito. The main participation was from a church from Heredia that came with 40 people, we helped with the team from Minnesota. There were kids' games, physiotherapy, dentists, doctors and nurses, hair cuts, nail painting, music, teaching for couples, movie for kids, soccer games, sales and the activity ended with a short message. The day was planned together with the community and it was a success. It was the first Christian activity ever organized in the village and the people could see that Christians and their God is interested in them as persons and as a community, through normal, everyday things. We believe that the doors are open in the future for more projects in Caballito.

SUMMER

We are taking combined furlough and vacation this summer in Finland, hoping to spend time with family and friends and to raise more monthly support. We will return to Central America in mid-August to participate in YWAM Area conference in Panama before going home to Guanacaste.

PRAYER POINTS:

- That God would help us to find and pay for a permanent ministry center that could be used for offices, staff and team housing as well as for different activities and meetings.
- That God would bring at least 5 full-time, committed staff members to work with us by the beginning of next year. We are especially praying for staff who could teach English and computers, others who have calling and gifting for youth ministry, and staff for maternity project and soccer staff. Please pray that God would call the right people at the right moment!
- Pregnancy; so far it has gone really well, even without morning sickness. The only difficulty has been strong lower back pains.
- That God would provide for us to buy/build a house.
- Travelling and the summer in Europe.

BOAT

We are raising money to buy a boat with a motor to be able to help families and communities during the floods at the end of the rainy season from September to November. Last year thousands of people in Guanacaste were affected and had to be evacuated. We hope to have a boat to be able to help taking people out from flooded houses and villages and also to take food to those who don't need to be taken out. Boat for 5 with a motor costs little over \$5000 brand new in Costa Rica. Unless we have the opportunity to buy a good one used or to buy one from the States, this is the amount we are trying to raise this summer. Please let us know if you or your church would like to help.

We hope to also hear from you to know how you are doing and how we can be praying for you. We pray that you would have a blessed and good summer! Thank you for partnering with us through your prayers and financial support!

God bless you,

Diego, Salla, Troy, Julia and baby Silva

e-mail: silvads@racsa.co.cr

address: PO Box 195 - 5200, Costa Rica

for sending financial support:

Send a check written out to YWAM to: YWAM El Paso, 4444 Edgar Park Ave, El Paso, TX 79904, USA. On a separate paper write: for the support of Diego Silva



picture: road to our village `Corral de Piedra`