



## The Silvas IN GUANACASTE

August 2008



*How do you make it? How can you do this every day?* People have asked us these questions over and over again the past months – and honestly sometimes we ask it ourselves too. The past three months, non-stop, together with a staff team of about 6 we have hosted and organized summer outreaches all over the province of Guanacaste. Through different short term teams we received altogether 124 people; young, old, students, professionals, musicians, builders... We worked in 18 different communities sharing the Gospel and showing God in many different ways, with children and youth, this summer also for the first time with the elderly, building playgrounds, organizing different kinds of activities and meetings, visiting churches, hosting a youth camp, painting up a building where the government feeds poor children, of course playing soccer and we even got the Maternity Project started here in Guanacaste. How have we made it? Obviously and only with God-given strength, health and excitement. Sometimes you feel that you really don't feel like making another trip to a village, translating another program, cooking another meal... but the Bible promises that those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed and that's how it has been. In the midst of all the work, ministry, responsibility and tiredness God refreshes our family, gives us short moments of rest, care and many blessings. The fruit of all this also motivates and keeps us going – knowing that we are really impacting lives, the Gospel is shared, heard and received. The summer has been challenging, time for children and family has been very limited, so now we are looking forward to slowing down, spending time in our home village and with our kids.

In June we rented a bigger and better facility for the ministry closer to Nicoya downtown. The place even had a pool, so the teams this summer had it pretty good! We had a 40 min. drive from home to work every day, but it was also good to get some distance. Last week we took again 22 bunk beds apart, packed all the ministry stuff and brought it back to the ministry house in our home village. We are planning on starting raising funds for buying a piece of land for YWAM ministry in Guanacaste, so we could have a permanent and functioning location for ministry, staff, teams and schools.

Our biggest need still is having long-term staff, but God blessed us again with a great summer staff team, this time from the States and Costa Rica. They helped us so much in many different ways, even though we were still the only two doing all the driving and program translation. Let's pray that God would send us committed, long-term staff who are also equipped with language, driving and many other skills needed in ministry! Diego is the only one with a bus license, so he has been driving every single day since the beginning of June.

We would have so many encouraging stories and testimonies to share, but here is two:



**CORRALILLO:** The whole Nicoya area was shocked with the news that one local taxi driver was killed on one of the rural roads. The people involved were arrested, taken to the court house, which was immediately surrounded by a furious crowd, with sticks and stones, wanting to kill them. We heard that all the arrested people were from our neighbour village and the the whole community had been deeply affected by the situation. At the same time we had a team that was visiting high schools. We went with them to do an intercession walk in this village and decided to ask the

local high school there if the team could go in and share with the students. While we walked in the directors were in a meeting trying to figure out how to handle the situation and they thought we were sent by God to resolve the situation. Two of the mudrerers were students of this high school. The team was able to share with several different groups of students about what had happened, life, choises, values etc. At the end of the day the team leader and Diego were able to have some private counseling sessions even with one of the boys involved in the crime. This was an amazing day, being able to be lead by God to be in the right place at the right time, speaking truth and love to a confusing situation. At the end of the day even the director of the school was receiving counseling.



**COLAS DE GALLO:** another touching moment was in a tiny village, hig up a mountain. We were on a short visit in a small rural church where the visiting team was going to do a program with children. It was puring rain, we were in a really small space with the kids and tried to start the teaching. After the first sentence of the teaching a little girl, about 5 yrs old, with no hair and a big scar on her head (tumor removed), stepped up, came to me and said “my father is bad, he hits me”. It was as if the whole world has stopped right there; a little, fearful, hurt little girl asking for help. The rain pouring on us we were able to tell her about a good, loving and safe Heavenly Father and pray for her. Later I tired to talk about it with her mom, who of course laughed at it and denied everything.

### **SEEDS OF LIFE = SEMILLAS DE VIDA**

Since we moved to Guanacaste three years ago, we have been praying and thinking about starting the Maternity Project here in Guanacaste. By the beginning of this summer God showed in many different ways that now was the right time to start running maternity courses. In July we started a Semillas de Vida – maternity course for pregnant teenagers. We are working with 10 grils for 8 weeks. The course is going really well and God has really helped us with right local contacts for it. Right now we will focus on finishing this course and then pray about how God wants this ministry to continue in the future.



### **PERHE JA KOTI**

As a family, the past three months, has been a time of 100% service to the teams and God. Troy and Julia had a two week break in July, but otherwise they have been in school, after school at the base in Nicoya (enjoying the pool) or in different villages with teams. Troy has even helped us to translate in several occasions. Julia and Nic Markus have also become very comfortable being with many different people and using different languages. The biggest sacrifice during this time has been the construction – it has not advanced as we had hoped. We haven't had the time to be there, to get materials, to oversee workers. It is also very hard to find skilfull workers in this area. It is not missing that much anymore, but finishing it will still be a challenge. We are missing tiling, doors, frames, windows, paint, kitchen cabinets and many other details. We ask for prayers for this!

The coming weeks we want to rest, recover from the busy summer. We want to spend more time at home as a family and also spend time with people from our home village. They feel a little abandoned since the ministry left our village for the summer. Diego will also get back to the soccer field with the guys. However, ministry will still continue... we have a volunteer coming next week, we are continuing with the Semillas de Vida, Kids Club, youth work and there are several bigger projects we are preparing for the end of the year and beginning of 2009.

Thank you for carrying us with your prayers and financial support the past months! We believe that everything that has happened through our ministry has made a real impact in the spiritual atmosphere of Guanacaste. Thank you!

*Diego and Salla  
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