

# ***THE SILVAS MINISTRY UPDATE***

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August, 2009

Dear friends,

We are writing this at the end of our summer season. Summer (northern hemisphere summer) for us means teams, ministry, outreaches, often over 12-hour work days, no free days and barely no family time without many other sharing it with us. But we have made it, once again surprisingly well and by God's grace.

We know this is part of the price we pay for being pioneers; get your hands dirty **all the time** with **everything** imaginable that has to be done. The other option would be to NOT having moved to Guanacaste 4 yrs ago, being in a place where you have your assigned job and you don't have to worry about everything else. Do it, go home and disconnect. But reflecting over this, we are pretty sure this is the road God had and still has for us, even with crazy months like these, we are fulfilled, satisfied, challenged .... stretched and changed. We have the privilege to be used by God, use our giftings and be on this journey of faith intimately with our God, Friend, Creator... and do it for his glory. It is pretty awesome and we wouldn't change it. And through many different ways each one of us individually, as a family and as a couple are rewarded and encouraged.



## ***The highlights and points for prayer:***

**CAROLINA:** She is a 26-yr old girl from our home village, who used to be Nic Markus' nanny. Now she finished her DTS (Discipleship Training School) in Heredia and even though still taking the first steps of her journey with God, has returned to be full time staff with us. She feels called to children's ministry, which is great and a big help for us. She needs to raise at least \$300 monthly support and we need wisdom to be the leaders, friends, spiritual parents and family members she needs.

**WOMEN:** The small business women's association is doing well. The women have learned to make and are already selling jewelry using local seeds and wood beads. Each one of them now have an organic garden on their yard and right now, together with some of the men of our community, they are receiving a government course for hydroponics. Carolina and Salla are actively part of this group; participating, helping, keeping it going. It is a great opportunity to build relationships with the women.

**SEEDS OF LIFE -MINISTRY:** A 38-yr old mom and her 18-yr old daughter are both pregnant. Their living conditions are bad and mental ability to parent is questionable. Salla has been working with them for few months, trying to cover basics of pregnancy and child care. Please pray for these babies that are due within the next two months.



**PICTURES:** 1) Youth day at the base 2) Women planting vegetable seeds

**OUTREACHES AND TEAMS:** During this summer we are hosting 7 outreaches for groups coming from the US and Canada. With them we are out in rural villages every day doing evangelism, Bible distribution, children's and youth ministry, fixing and visiting schools, building a playground, working with local churches...

**BIBLES:** During the outreaches of this summer the Bible Distribution Program has really been happening. The goal of the program is to **distribute a Bible to each home in the province of Guanacaste** by the end of 2013 (94 000 Bibles). We already have many stories of fruit and miracles through this project. One lady

had prayed for a new Bible for 30 years. Many people have never even personally seen a Bible and it is hard for them to believe that someone would come all the way to their home to give them one for free. Usually people start reading it right away and then of course the Holy Spirit takes care of the rest. God sent a person with negotiating skills to help, so now we have a deal with the International Bible Society for \$1.90 for each Spanish NIV full Bible!! Would you like to join us in this project by sponsoring Bibles? We want to raise enough money to send a container with the first 20 000 Bibles down early next year. Contact us or IBS directly, mentioning **Guanacaste, Costa Rica project**.



**PICTURE:** a team from Dallas, TX that fixed a ceiling of a school, worked with high school students and distributed Bibles.

**OUR HOUSE:** Lately God has been sending some good workers to help finish the house. If provision for materials continue, we might even be living there in two weeks! Exciting! We had to give our rental house back, so now we are staying with friends for a month. Living like this, having half or all of our belongings packed away, for 4 years has been difficult and we are really waiting for it to be over, for our kids to have a real home and a place where they can unpack ALL their toys without having to pack them away soon again. Thank you God for helping us! ... and the house is looking beautiful!

**ONE OF THOSE...** In June our van broke, so we had to rent a car for few days while we got the right parts for it. The rental car was broken into at grocery store parking lot. Troy's school bag, all his books, a phone and his trumpet were stolen. A typical mistake to leave all that in the car, and a normal

thing for someone to brake into a nice car driven by a foreigner... A case that will never be solved in this country. God already provided a new phone, now we just need \$400 for a new trumpet for Troy to continue in his music class.

**FINLAND:** The real gift, blessing and joy of this summer was our fast trip to Finland. Diego was able to take 12 days and Salla & children the whole month of July to go visit family in Finland. Keeping ties, letting the kids grow roots and build relationships there is very important to us, so even though short, we are so thankful for a great trip, good weather and opportunity to see family and friends!

**FACEBOOK:** Join “YWAM Guancaste, Costa Rica” pages, become a fan and read more about the ministry, projects and check out pictures.

Thank you for your friendship, partnership, prayers and financial support!

*Salla and Diego  
Troy, Julia & Nic Markus*

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