

On a Life Journey to Guatemala and...

December 2003

Wendell & Dianne Merritt

Our Homework Is Heart Work

As Dianne and I get somewhat closer to departure for Guatemala, the Lord has been orchestrating a homework assignment on our hearts. Before going *out*, He has been calling us to go *within* and do the heart work He feels is necessary.

On October 17 and 18 Dianne and I attended a conference with Larry Crabb about caring for each other's souls; he calls it SoulCare (www.newwayministries.org) although the name is not very important. We have read his latest book accompanying this conference called *SoulTalk* (Integrity Publishers). This has caused both of us to examine ourselves and to consider how we can minister to others through relationships. The objective is to enter into community and to grow more like Jesus – together.

We also attended a brief workshop on effective communication and particularly within a marriage – something we need for ourselves and hopefully can use to assist others.

The first week of December we are headed off to Colorado for a retreat center to encourage deeper intimacy with God and each other.

We have been reading and sharing with others from Henri Nouwen's *In the Name of Jesus* (Crossroad Publishing). I love this little book; here are a couple of quotes. Our goal in ministry is that "every word spoken, every word of advice given, and every strategy developed can come from a heart that knows God intimately" (page 44).

But how can we lay down our life for those with whom we are not even allowed to enter into a deep personal relationship? Laying down your life means making your own faith and doubt, hope and despair, joy and sadness, courage and fear available to others as ways of getting in touch with the Lord of life. (page 61)

Although the geographic journey to Guatemala has not yet started, the spiritual journey has. We covet your prayers that we are paying attention and preparing our heart work well.



CAM INTERNATIONAL

We Need You

Many have come around us in prayer and financial support and we are humbled and thankful. At this time our monthly support is 71% and our one time outgoing expenses are at 62%. This leaves us very excited, thankful and dependent on the Lord!

We welcome your prayer and financial support.

Fellowship with You

On November 17 we had several people in our home for pupusas, which are sort of like the Central American version of soft tacos. We had a great time. We hope to announce another time when we can invite you over for food and fellowship.

Watch for an email.

PRAISE

- Wayne has a part-time job that is a good fit for his skills and career path.
- Wayne excelled at a state certification test to be a technology trainer for the disabled.
- Neil (our oldest son) and his wife, Brandy, have been moved spiritually through a Crown Ministries course. Also, they are expecting their second child in July.

PRAYER

- Wayne will have employment that will support his independent living.
- Direction for Timothy regarding school or career.
- For additional churches to support us.

From the Back of the File Drawer

Recipe: *Tres Leches* (three milks cake)

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ cup unsalted butter
- 2 cups white sugar (divided)
- 5 eggs
- 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract (divided)
- 1 cup milk
- ½ of a 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- ½ of a 12-ounce can evaporated milk
- 1 ½ cups heavy whipping cream

Tres Leches (continued)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.

Sift flour and baking powder together and set aside.

Cream butter and 1 cup of the sugar together until fluffy. Add eggs and 1/2 teaspoon of the vanilla. Beat well.

Add the flour mixture to the butter mixture 2 tablespoons at a time, mixing well until blended. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

When cake has finished baking, pierce it in several places with a fork and let cool. Combine the whole milk, evaporated milk and condensed milk and pour over the top of the cooled cake.

Whip whipping cream, 1 teaspoon of vanilla and 1 cup of sugar together until thick. Spread over top of cake. Keep cake refrigerated.

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Video Clip Introduction

At www.wdmerritt.com, click on the "Video Intro" link on the left-hand side. This is a brief two-minute introduction with John Lohrenz and Wendell. We discuss our ministry and our roles.

We are praising God for you all,
Wendell and Dianne



Response (Merritt account 086460)

- I am praying in support of Wendell and Dianne Merritt.
- Enclosed is a one-time gift of \$_____ to encourage.
- As God enables, expect monthly or annual support of \$_____ beginning _____.
- Please send me information about EFT gifts.
- I've developed other interests. Please remove my name from this mailing list.

(Print clearly.) Mr./Mrs./Miss/Mr. and Mrs. _____

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