

On a Life Journey to Guatemala and...

September 2003

Wendell & Dianne Merritt

THE JOURNEY BEGINS...

We are beginning a new chapter in our lives, *Missionaries in Guatemala*, after much prayer, exploration and consideration. This is a big step for us in mid life, but we believe the LORD has been preparing us through life experiences and ministry. He is bidding us to commit our way and trust Him with our future.

Since Our Fall 2002 Trip

Wow! A lot has happened since last November 2002 when we asked you to pray for our time in Guatemala. In February 2003, we said *yes* to the Lord and that we would follow Him to Guatemala if that was where He wanted us to serve.

In July, we attended CAM's Candidate Orientation. It was a two-week orientation of CAM values, vision for ministry, training and getting to know the CAM staff in Dallas as well as other missionaries and field staff. Those two weeks were very affirming and confirming to us of God's leading to Guatemala with CAM. At the end of the two weeks we felt a part of a family. We set a target date of January 2004 for departure.

Wendell was involved in two trips to Guatemala this summer - in May and July. The primary purpose of the first trip was for a team of 10 friends to do construction at a drug rehab residential facility for youth and young women. Pictured below right are a couple of the many kids there.

The July trip was to Rio Hondo, Guatemala to provide a Bible school camp over 6 days to elementary and high school children. There were a total of 450 children who attended the camp and several came to Christ in salvation - a genuine blessing to see the Holy Spirit changing lives.

What's Next

The next months leading up to January 2004 are to be filled with preparation: spiritual feeding of our hearts (a week-long retreat in Colorado), transition and exit from our current ministries, and many personal errands as we unwind our life details here and start new ones there. In short, we are rearranging our lives! We hope to have quality time with family and friends with opportunities to get together.



WE NEED YOU

Many have come around us in prayer and financial support and we are so humbled and thankful. At this time our monthly support is about 60% and our one time outgoing expenses are at about 20%. This leaves us very excited, thankful and dependent on the Lord!

We ask of you and welcome your prayer and financial support.

We have enclosed an *Introducing* brochure from CAM International about us, and the back panel tells more of our story.



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.



COOL STUFF THIS SUMMER

What an exciting and busy summer it has been! The weeks flew by.

Our highlight of the summer was serving as short-term missionaries in August at the Joni and Friends Family Camp. It was one of our most significant experiences - one which moved and softened our hearts.

It was our joy to serve a disabled person one-on-one as well as their families. The activities were fun, crazy, and worshipful in an environment of total acceptance and freedom. Dianne developed great relationships with new friends pictured above left.

CONTACT US

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PRAISE

- Wayne may have a part time job with an agency that trains disabled persons in the use of adaptive technology and equipment.
- Mobility training is underway for Wayne to help him in getting around Dallas. His independence is growing.
- Tim is working well with Neil in the mortgage business, and both are having their giftedness validated.

PRAYER

- Guidance for Tim and completion of his college degree.
- Continued provision for Wayne's independence and employment.
- Wisdom as it relates to leaving our family, our home in Dallas, and many details.
- Wendell and Dianne will not be stressed in all that needs to be done before departure but truly rely on the Lord.

STAYING IN TOUCH

Contact CAM About Us

At www.wdmerritt.com click on the "Contact CAM About Us" link on the left-hand side.

Help Us Update Our Contact Information With You

We would love to stay in touch with you. We will be sending periodic letters and emails to give news and prayer updates. But, we do not want to bother you if you have plenty to read already. Contact us via email or at our Web site www.wdmerritt.com where you click the "Contact Us" link on the left side and then click the "WDMERRITT" button. By either means, tell us ADD, UPDATE, or REMOVE your contact information. Thanks!

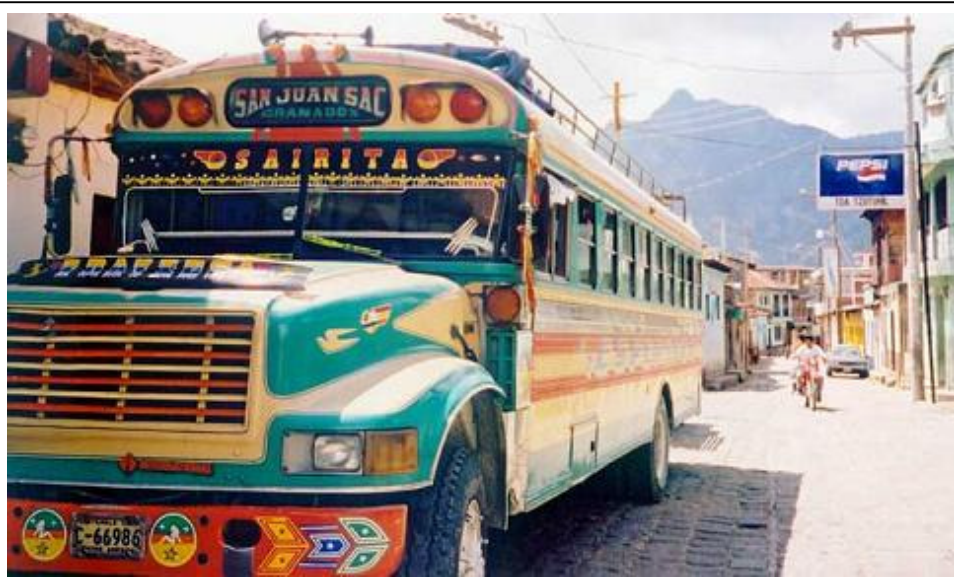
FROM THE BACK OF THE FILE DRAWER

Other Stories about Guatemala: *The Chicken Bus*

Standing on the side of the road, you know you won't be run over as the chicken bus screeches as it slows (they want you as a paying passenger), but you may be tackled by the ayudante (the driver's helper) hanging out the open door hollering "Guate, Guate, Guate!" announcing the destination of this bus trip (the capital of Guatemala City) as he jumps to the ground while still at 20 miles per hour or so. Protect your person and your eardrums as the air horns blare! You better get out the way, because the flurry has started. If you don't give any indication of interest in catching the bus, and no one else on the side of the road does either, then the ayudante may just jump back on without the bus ever making a complete stop. It's like a pit stop at a NASCAR race. Heaven help you if you are in the way. But, if there are passengers and stuff to pick up, the produce, farm implements, hand-made goods, and whatever are thrown on top, the passengers scramble on board, the bus starts off, and the sprinting ayudante leaps into the open *back* door of the bus for a marvel of a sight of lightning speed. And if you are already on and at the back door, give the guy a hand getting back on – he's tired!



CAM INTERNATIONAL



We are praising God for you all,

Wendell and Dianne