



Lubeck Locator

Evangel Bible Translators to the Chortí

March 2024

Dear Precious Partners

It is hard for us to believe that it is already March. Please forgive us for our lack of communication in the last two months. We have penned many letters in our heads, but failed to get them onto paper. Your faithful love, prayers, and support are highly valued and



greatly appreciated the Lubeck's lives. Thank you so much in this epistle. We hope to love you. Happy catch you up on reading.

Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven. Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created. Psalm 119:89-90

Miracles from the Lord (She Said)

Over a year ago we started putting money away in a savings account as much as we could each month towards the purchase of a new truck. It felt like the amounts that we were able to save would take forever to be

enough. We prayed in faith and you all prayed and God assured us that the miracle was on its way, and even though we didn't have enough, we serve the God of more than enough.

So for several

months we were checking out all the different trucks that are available here in Guatemala which happens to be one of John's favorite pastimes anyway, so we would know exactly which truck we wanted when our miracle came

through.

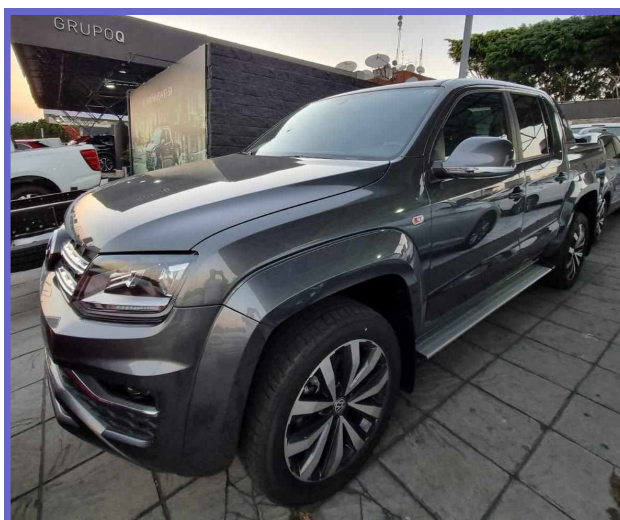
So some time last year John found the truck that he wanted which is a Volkswagen V6 diesel pickup and talked to a salesman who was red-hot to sell the 2023 model that same day. We had to tell him, "Whoa,"

She Said, continued

and that we do have some money in savings and that we will have the money from the sale of our old truck, but that we were still waiting for our miracle from the Lord. His eyes got big, and he seemed disappointed that he didn't make a sale. But soon he would understand that our God is a miracle working God!

Our miracle began happening in December when several large gifts came in that we were able to save towards the truck, and

how we thank each one of you for your offerings. Our faith for the truck was growing in leaps and bounds as we were getting closer to the goal.



Well, in January our miracle came in the form of a surprise gift from a donor and longtime friend. This gift is enough with what we have saved and the recent sale of our old truck to buy the truck that John has been dreaming about for years. Praise God! And because we are buying last year's model at a great discount, our miracle covers the amount that we need.

So in the name of Jesus, by the end of this month we will have the new truck. Listen for John's shout of "Hallelujah", because you just might be able to hear it all away from Guatemala!

Buying a New Vehicle (He Said)

During the past year we have mentioned several times in our updates the need to replace our aging Volkswagen pickup, and have asked you to pray for God's supply for this need. And pray you did! And so extra funds came in little by little and we put what we could in savings, awaiting the day when we could purchase a new pickup.

And as we had opportunities to be in the capital for other reasons, such as medical appointments, we would look at different brands of pickups to see

what was available and which one would meet our needs best.

So after investigating several brands that caught our eye, we went back to Volkswagen and fell in love (well, we liked it a lot) with the new Amarok with a diesel engine. It is a lot like our old Volkswagen pickup, except with many modern touches. And we have really enjoyed our old pickup and like many things about it. So when January, 2024, rolled around, and a large donation came in that would finish covering the price of a new

pickup, we rejoiced and praised the Lord for His supply and kindness to us. (And we praise the Lord for the donors who felt led of the Lord to send these large gifts, too.) And we investigated to find out if the new 2024 models were in the Volkswagen agency by now. To our great surprise, they didn't have the 2024 models in yet, but had a number of 2023 models that they were offering at a reduced price! And I really liked the 2023 models, but never expected to be able to buy one af-

He Said, continued

ter the first of the year. And they had one in a color that we really liked that was a well-equipped vehicle with a lot of extras that we wouldn't normally order on a new car. Wow, what a blessing!

So we have been paying down the price of the new car little by little as we are able to do using the local banking system, who I want to mention have been very helpful to us during this whole

process.

So, do we have the new vehicle yet? No, but in another week or so we will be able to take delivery. God is good! (No doubt about that!)

So what are we going to do with our old pickup? We weren't sure what we would do about that, but I asked the Volkswagen dealer what they would offer us if we traded it in on the new pickup. They quoted to us

what I thought was a reasonable price, but I mentioned to our local pastor that the car was for sale in case someone in the church wanted it and could pay us for it right away. And behold in just a few days the pastor called me saying he wanted to buy it! And he has, and we put all that money towards the price of the new pickup.

New Men's Bible Study (Papa John)



Nearly a year ago, Diana started an evening Bible study for the neighborhood women. And doing this all in Spanish instead of Chortí was a problem since that's all we speak here at home. And so she would often say things in Chortí in the middle

of sentences she was trying to say in Spanish. But the ladies in the Bible study were very kind about it and didn't say anything as Diana repeated what she had said, only in Spanish this time. And they all would laugh about it.

But Diana's emphasis has been about really trusting God to help them and teaching them to rely on the promises of God in the Bible, and to be careful what they say so they would not cancel their prayers with words of doubt. And that is because we all grew up saying disparaging things in various circumstances. And the ladies are learning and many of them have experienced outstanding answers to prayer.

Many of the ladies are picked up by their husbands after the Bible study is over by 9 PM or so, and many of these ladies would be excited about what they had heard and would start talking to their husbands about it.

So after a while many of



New Men's Bible Study, continued

these husbands started saying, "And us men, isn't there a Bible study for us?" And that went on for several months last year. So on the 15th January we had our first men's Bible study. And, as you can imagine, it started out with just a few men attending, but we've already had five men attending several times.

And just last night (5th of February) one man told me that he gave up playing soccer on a team he had been on for years—just to attend the Bible study on Monday nights! That is really

special since soccer is so popular with everyone here in Guatemala, especially the men.

So now, what to teach. There are so many very interesting themes and stories in the Bible that I find myself conflicted as I try to decide. But then I think about the deep teachings that there are about the decision that our Father God made to send his Son to earth to become part of the human race (Philippians 2:5-11; Romans 5:12-21), but without sin (Hebrews 4:15), to be able to pay for all

our sins so that we can be forgiven and receive salvation (Romans 10:9-10). So there is much to teach about this and other teachings that aren't often heard by these men.

So we are delving into the deep teachings about this and many of God's promises in the Bible that make many blessings available to us as we trust God for them. And at least one of the men is not sure of his salvation and needs your prayers.

The Angel Choir (Mama Diana)

When you have a children's choir well onto 9 years, those children become very much loved and cherished, and are practically family. That is why I am sitting in a doctor's waiting room with one of my girls who has been in the choir since the beginning. She and one of her sisters and her mother came along from their village early this morning (February 19th) so we could take them to see a specialist in Chiquimula.

Yesterday we visited a local lady doctor in Camotán who referred my 16-year-old Angel (Sayda) to a doctor in Chiquimula because of a mass in her breast.

So here we sit, waiting. This girl is one of our favorites and she has been a loyal choir member for many years. And this morning she is very nervous. Just to go to a doctor is a scary thing for these kids.

So these days being a children's choir director involves a lot more than leading the music for a group of kids. But while we wait, I'll take advantage of the time and fill you in on the new choir's progress.

Last Saturday (February 10th) was our second Saturday meeting from 1:30 until 4 PM for the Angel choir and we had 41 kids. There are more than half a

dozen new children who are mostly unchurched. This is a great opportunity to teach these children about Jesus and his saving power. 41 kids is a handful and keeping order is a gigantic challenge. Again this year we need your prayers for wisdom to channel all this little-boy-energy into something constructive and life-changing. There is very little discipline in their homes so just teaching them to say, "Thank you," is a major accomplishment. So please pray. Thank you. We feel called by the Lord to speak into these children's lives. It does keep us young.



Update on Sayda (Mama Diana)

The doctor did an ultrasound on Sayda and assured her that the tumor was not malignant or dangerous, but did need to come out. When I mentioned to the doctor that our son-in-law is Dr. Joel Quijada she said, "Wonderful. He is the best surgeon to operate on Sayda." So next week we can hopefully get this done. We would appreciate your prayers.

Update # 2 on Sayda

We were able to make arrangements with Dr Joel to do Sayda's surgery on Wednesday, February 28th, at around 8 in the morning. So we sent word to her to come down from her village (30 minutes in the back of a pickup) early so we could be in Chiquimula at the hospital by 8 AM. Again her mother and older sister came along. The surgery went well and Dr Joel removed what looked to us like a very large tumor from such a small girl. And because

of the anesthesia she had to stay overnight in the hospital, but was released the following morning just before noon. So we drove down to Chiquimula and, after buying her needed medicines, took her and family all the way home to her village. We thank the Lord that we were able to pay for the hospital expenses for the surgery which were reduced because Dr Joel donated his services.



Ladies Bible Study (Mama Diana)



The highlight of my week is my ladies Bible study. The group is so transparent and responsive and receives the deep teachings that the Holy Spirit is leading me to give them.

Preparing for these studies is blessing me and being a great encouragement to my life as well. To see

these ladies grow in the faith lights my candle. I have been doing a series on the 19 recorded healings that Jesus did in the New Testament. These accounts built our faith and to see how each healing is so different has been fascinating.

I praise God for each of these precious ladies who I call my daughters and they call me Mama Diana.



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Medical missionaries (Mama Diana)

The last couple of weeks we have spent lots of hours taking care of the medical needs of some of our beloved Chortí folks. Yesterday we took hermana Trine to a specialist in Chiquimula.

Teo and Trine have been faithful workers for us for more than 20 years. They are loyal and honest and they are a tremendous blessing. Because of diabetes and high blood pressure Trine was suffering quite a bit. The doctor prescribed meds and gave her a pep talk about her diet. Praise God, last night she slept for the first time in many nights without pain!

So yesterday (Tuesday, February 27th) after visiting the doctor, we took Teo and Trine out to lunch and then to the mall. They walked around the mall with big eyes seeing things they had never seen before. I shopped for special food that Trine should eat. We finished off the day with ice cream and they even had the kind Trine could eat without sugar. It was a good day.



*We praise the Lord
 for the many miracles
 in our lives and you all
 are a big part of these
 miracles. Thank you!
 We love and appreciate
 you. Please pray for the
 various ministries you
 have read about in this
 letter. Until next time,*

hugs from Guatemala,

John and Diana Lubeck

*PS HE HAS RISEN,
 JUST LIKE HE SAID!*

John & Diana Lubeck