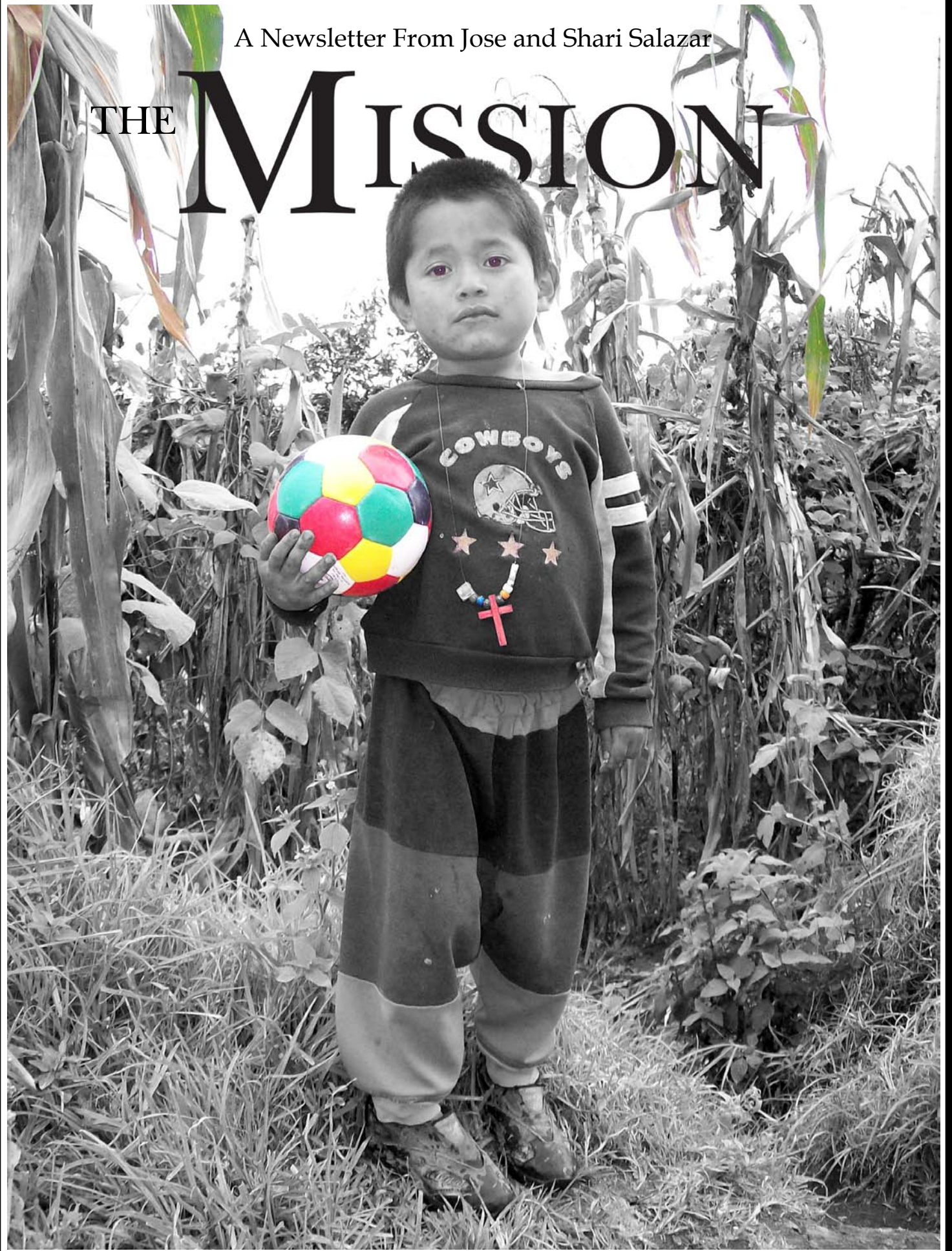


A Newsletter From Jose and Shari Salazar

# THE MISSION



DECEMBER 2008



“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

*John 15:5*

“When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” Deuteronomy 6:10-12

When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.

Hosea 13:6

JOSE ASKED THE STUDENTS AT CAMP THIS QUESTION, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF GOD ONLY GAVE US BLESSINGS? MOST OF THEM RESPONDED THINKING THAT WOULD JUST BE WONDERFUL AND WE WOULD LIVE HAPPILY EVERY AFTER AND BE SO THANKFUL AND HAVE SUCH JOY. YET THESE PASSAGES TEACH US THAT WE PROBABLY WOULD NOT RESPOND THAT WAY. WOULD WE BECOME SELFISH BRATS UNGRATEFUL TO OUR FATHER IF WE ONLY RECEIVED BLESSINGS? THIS PUTS A DIFFERENT LIGHT ON OUR TRIALS. OUR TRIALS DEVELOP OUR CHARACTER AND PUT US ON OUR KNEES BEGGING FOR OUR FATHERS HELP AND INTERVENTION, FOR HIS COMFORT. HE TEACHES US THROUGH OUR TRIALS. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR BOTH OUR BLESSINGS AND TRIALS!

“Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” Deuteronomy 8:2-3

# Casa Salazar

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.”

Psalm 127:1

## *Casa Salazar Update:*

It has been 5 weeks since we started the construction of the addition for our Children's Home, Casa Salazar. It has been exciting to see the construction under way!!! We are hoping that with this addition we can get the approval of the government of Guatemala. There are 3 different inspections that we have to go through: Child Services, Health Inspection & NCA. So this addition is fundamental for the opening of the children's home. We divided the construction of this addition into two phases. The first phase is almost completed and payed for. The walls have gone up and the roof has been poured. We are hoping to be able to move onto the second phase: all of the inside work: tile, installing everything in the bathroom, hot water heater, doors, etc... However we will be waiting for sufficient funds before we can move ahead into this part. The budget is for \$3500. We are confident the Lord will provide in His time as he did with so many other aspects of Casa Salazar already. We also are praying that the building can be finished by January 10th when we move in. A new family will be moving into the apartment we will be leaving. It will be nice to have another missionary couple in Chichi!

The paperwork has been stuck in the same stage since June. It did come back to us at one point and we had to resend the paperwork to a new government organization N.C.A. (National Council of Adoptions) who will now be taking over this work. We will not be working with adoptions in our home, yet this organization will be in charge of all children's homes.

A dear friend shared the passage of scripture with us from Exodus 17. She so encouraged us by saying that she would be Aaron for us. Exodus 17:10-13 say,

*So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up one on one side, one on the other so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.*

We know there is a spiritual battle going on around us every day. We ask that you too will be like Aaron and Hur and help hold up our arms during this battle. Please pray for us!

# New Addition



# Casa Salazar

# Kite Day: Nov. 1, Day of the Dead, in Surapanga

*Don't be another victim to addictions.*



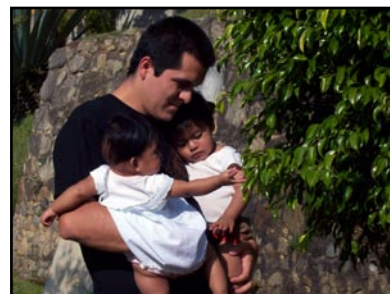
I guess I would compare it to our Memorial Day. It is the day where people visit the graves. The Kite Festival began because the people believe that they are sending the spirits up into the air. As you can see in the photos the kites are massive in size and beautiful works of art. They use bamboo for the sticks in the back and the designs are made from tissue paper. Each kite has a theme or message. The missionary kids traveled to see these kites as a school field trip for the second year in a row. It is a beautiful time to drive around Guatemala as you see kids everywhere flying their own kites throughout the month. A child's personal kite is made very inexpensively with sticks that come from a certain plant and tissue paper or plastic. They use newspaper for the tail. The theme of the kite on top was "Don't be another victim to addictions."



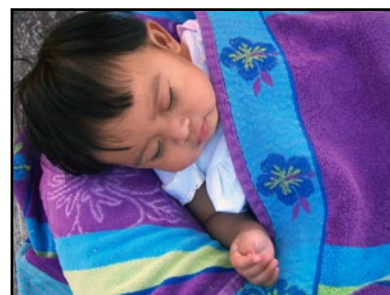
*Dec. 7: Day of the Devil  
or Burn the Devil Day  
burn the Devil Day*

## Lemoa Orphanage Pool Day

It was a beautiful sunny day. We love hanging out with them. The first photo is of Jose holding Cesar and Madeline...I think he is getting prepared for having more than one little one! He makes it look so easy to have 2 at the same time. The second photo is of Madeline taking her nap wrapped in a beach towel while laying in a floatie.



On this day people burn a devil on the street outside of their home and then take the trash from their home and throw it on the pile to be burnt. At 6pm this began with fireworks and then people began their burning...right in the streets! Apparently, the idea is that this 'burning of the devil', and taking trash out of the house to burn, symbolizes the purifying the house for the Christmas (Navidad) season. Evangelical Christians do not usually participate in this tradition. The photo is of "devils" just waiting to be purchased. In the city almost every street corner has a bunch of them ready to be sold. The devils are made from the same materials as the pinatas here. They look just like a pinata, only they are burned instead of filled with candy.



**Jose &  
Shari  
with  
Madeline**

# ENGLISH CAMP

NOVEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 5

## CAMP FACTS

19 teenage students, from ages 12 and up  
Live near Guatemala City dump where their  
parents work  
Camp is a reward for passing all of their  
classes in school  
This camp was used to motivate them all  
year to press on in their classes  
These students attend school in the morn-  
ings and then go to Potter's House Ministry  
in the afternoon for tutoring and discipleship.

An amazing group of young people attended camp this year. We are so proud of their hard work before even arriving at camp. It is a difficult task to pass all of their classes. It is an accomplishment because in many cases the teachers may not even care if they pass or not, and parents may not have gone past elementary education themselves. I had more than one student tell me that they had to really put forth a lot of extra effort or they would not have passed, and one of the girls told me that the thought of returning to camp was her motivation. Now on top of what they accomplished before arriving at camp, we were so proud of their hard work during their time at camp! We plan many fun and special activities, but still the core of camp is studying English! They worked so hard and really did learn a lot. This year we split the students into 2 classes: Beginner's and Advanced. We were amazed to see

how much the advanced students had retained from previous years at camp. We gave them an end of camp exam and we were very proud of their accomplishments.

Cooking a Thanksgiving meal with 19 teenagers could really be a head-ache, but it was the complete opposite with this special group! It was a joy for us as well as for them! We had groups so that everyone would have a chance to cook, yet not be in the little kitchen all at the same time! The pies were made the day before. The girls in that group were perfectionists and the crusts came out looking lovely! The next day we made turkey, mashed potatoes—they peeled so many potatoes!!!, green beans, homemade rolls, and sweet potatoes. The rolls and turkey were the favorites. We even had a group for decorations so we were able to enjoy the meal together with a beautiful ambiance. Many of the students said

this was their favorite part of camp.

The work project this year for camp was very special for Jose and I because our students were able to help us with Casa Salazar! We emphasized that no matter how much or little we have we always have something to offer to someone else, we can always give/do something for others. They helped to make the concrete roof of the addition. The concrete was made on the ground and then in an assembly line carried up by buckets to the roof and dumped. We also had groups cleaning up around the house and the land. With the camp students along with missionary friends we had about 40 people working that day! So much was accomplished! What a blessing! The students were proud of their work and even brought their parents up to see it on visitation day. The parents were surprised to see that their kids were able to serve in this way. Happily surprised!

## ENGLISH CAMP CONTINUED...

The lake trip was another very special activity for the students. Most of them have never been to a lake and have never been in a boat either. The ones who were brave enough to jump off the boat and into the lake (with life jackets!) were so proud of themselves and said that it was the highlight of their camp experience. I know they will always remember this day. At lunch one of the boys asked if we could take a picture of his plate of food because no one would ever believe he had eaten this meal. Nothing was taken for granted. It was thoroughly enjoyed and I am sure will always be remembered.

### NEW NEIGHBORS!



Here are a couple of photos of our new neighbors. The girls have their baby brother in the wheel barrow. Their dad is the one in charge of building our addition, so his kids love having him work close by. Every time we are there we can count on a huge smile by one of these precious girls. The family includes 9 children: 4 boys (the older 2 not pictured) and 5 girls. We will not have to worry about our kids having someone to play with!!!



Saying goodbye to these kids and knowing what they are returning to after camp is the hardest part for us. However it is possible because we know that they have the help of Potter's House all year long. This ministry works with the kids daily after school. We are glad to be able to come alongside them in this way each year. If you want to know a little bit more about Potter's House, you can look at their web page:

**WWW.POTTERSHOUSE.ORG.GT**

*Thank you to all you helped and supported this camp!!! I believe the smiles on the faces of the kids in these photos are a way of letting you know how much it was appreciated!!!*

## Christmas season:

Picking out our Christmas tree...wearing sunglasses. It doesn't seem right!!! Even though the sunshine is wonderful, I must say that I do miss the cold season! In Guatemala City, the commercialism is similar to that of the U.S. during the Christmas season. In Chichi, however it is much different, much simpler. In Chichi Christmas decorations including little fake trees, lights and some ornaments are sold in the streets. Along the road side people sell reindeer made from sticks and ornaments made from what looks like straw. People will stay up until midnight on Christmas Eve and then set off fireworks. We will be having a special Christmas service within the missionary community this weekend, as well as go caroling in town on Christmas Eve. The reason for Christmas, however, is the same no matter what country you are in. May you be able to focus on the love of our Sovereign God who sent his precious son, Jesus, our Savior. "Joy to the world, the Lord has come..." May you truly have the joy of Jesus in your life. We want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



*A very special Thank You*

To Strasburg Baptist Church and the Children's Choirs! Your hard work and your warm hearts are very much appreciated.

*Thank You.*

# Prayer

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CASA SALAZAR: PROJECT MONEY AND MONTHLY SUPPORT | FAVOR IN THE PAPERWORK AND OPENING OF OUR HOME | FOR WISDOM AND GUIDANCE THROUGH THIS PROCESS | FOR THE FUTURE CHILDREN OF CASA SALAZAR | BABY MADALYN | SHARI'S PAPERWORK FOR BECOMING A RESIDENT OF GUATEMALA | THE PEOPLE OF CHICHICASTENANGO: SALVATION, FOR FEARS AND SUPERSTITIONS TO BE TAKEN AWAY

PLEASE PRAY THAT WE WILL RELY ON GOD TO MEET ALL OF OUR NEEDS. | PLEASE PRAY THAT WE INCREASE IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE AND GROW CLOSER TO GOD, LEARNING TO TRUST HIM IN ALL THINGS. | PLEASE PRAY THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO THE STATES THIS NEXT YEAR IN ORDER TO DO SOME FUND RAISING. | PLEASE PRAY FOR CONTINUAL PROTECTION FOR US. | PLEASE PRAY FOR US FOR THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE WE ARE IN. | PLEASE PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN THAT LIVE IN THE GARBAGE DUMP. | PLEASE PRAY AS TO HOW GOD MIGHT WANT TO USE YOU SOMEHOW IN THIS MINISTRY.

WE ARE SO GREATFUL FOR YOUR PRAYERS. THANK YOU!

# Needs

THESE ARE THE MUST HAVES  
[ BEFORE WE CAN HAVE OUR INSPECTION OF CASA SALAZAR. ]

PAINT | DOORS | REFRIGERATOR | STOVE/OVEN | KITCHEN CABINETS | BUNK BEDS | OUTSIDE FENCE | BUILD A NEW BATHROOM | BUILD LAUNDRY ROOM | BUILD CLOSETS

A special thank you to New Hope  
Awana kids for their hard work and special offering.

*Thank You*

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Check out our web pages for background information on Jose and Shari, read our newsletter; THE MISSION: with up to date news, pictures and praises, find out how you can donate to Casa Salazar, and get in contact with us:

<http://www.missionsfrontier.org/casasalazar.html>

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DONATIONS FOR CASA SALAZAR CAN BE SENT TO: MISSIONS FRONTIER, INC. (MEMO: CASA SALAZAR)

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# THANK YOU

# THANK YOU

# THANK YOU

## THANK YOU

To all of our supporters and those who have kept us in your prayers. Our lives have never been more blessed than when we fulfill the Lords will.

*"A servant of God has but one Master." -George Muller*

*The Mission, is to serve God.*