

# United in the New Year

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

The "Nifty Nine" as our boss calls us.



## Prayer Requests

Pray that we will be able to prepare for our trip home in a few months and transition responsibilities to our new missionaries working with us here.

Pray for our missionaries currently in language school working hard to learn the language and culture so they can best serve the people of Guatemala.

Pray that City of Refuge's vision planning process is completed before it is time for us to return to the United States.

Pray that our new team continues to work together to grow and function well as the body of Christ.

## As we kick off 2015, many things are more united than they were in 2014.

In January, we welcomed 6 fellow servants to our team! Colleen and Ramsis join us as a newly married couple serving together. Colleen has been a missionary to Guatemala over the past few years and Ramsis had been working with an organization that does similar work as we do, serving at risk families. Kasey, Esther, and Abigail join us from our home church and will be focusing on reinforcing education. Valerie (and her dog Tito who isn't in the photo) is an English as a second language teacher who will be also focusing on education reinforcement. Kim will be marrying Jon later in the year and comes to us all the way from Canada! Her background is in accounting but she also is looking forward to seeing the different ways God has called her to integrate in the Serving At Risk Families Ministry.

After getting everyone set up with cell phones and starting their visa process and bank account applications, we broke them in quickly to the ministry by having them help us stuff backpacks for the kids we are supporting to go to school this year! Val, Esther, Kasey, and Kim are now in Antigua learning Spanish and Guatemalan culture.

## We hosted a team in January

In mid January, we hosted our first SARF team of 2015. They continued working on the retaining wall for a family we serve in Linda Vista. We ran into some issues with the family's neighbor so the team wasn't able to complete the whole project but the local church plans on pitching in to finish it this year!





## The Celebrate Recovery ministry is growing and maturing!

### United Ministries

The ministry leadership team has decided to unite the men's and women's Celebrate recovery groups. This is the way the program is designed to be presented but when we started, we had to overcome some cultural obstacles. We have also created a children's class that is using a Spanish lesson plan for children until the CR creators translate the kids' version. We have also integrated a youth group bible study that was happening at the same time so the whole family has somewhere to go on Friday nights! We provide dinner for the whole family, then a lesson, and time to share. The first night we had 50 adults and 15 kids attend and they loved Dylan's famous spaghetti!

### United Learning

In March, Missy will be helping a group coming from Saddleback Church (where CR originated) to host a retreat for the women that regularly attend and are involved in the ministry here. They were here a couple years ago to host a similar retreat for the men and now are coming back to serve the women! Everyone is excited for this time of fellowship and refreshing to celebrate what God has been doing in their lives.

The women's small group has just finished book 3 of 4 in their participant's guide study and the men have just completed book 2. It is wonderful to see how these men and women of God continue to work to receive His healing from their hurts, hang-ups, and habits to better serve Him and their community!

### United Leaders

As a result of combining the different parts of the CR ministry, the ministry leaders are now working together. We weren't sure how that would work out but we are encouraged by the increase in teamwork we have seen in the men and women leading the ministry. We have also had others step up who aren't technically CR leaders to help with things like cooking, organizing, and helping out in teaching the kids!

The leaders are growing into their roles as examples in this ministry and are doing well in discussing important issues, working to make things better to serve the community each week, and they are even stepping up to teach the main lessons! Above is a picture of Olga teaching about hope, whom Missy has been discipling to be a leader in the church and specifically in CR.

## We can't wait to see you all!

We want to thank you all for helping us raise money so we can come home on furlough in just 3 months! We are currently working on the details of what we will be doing and where we will be doing it while we are home, but we would love to spend time with you. We expect our time home to be very busy but very fulfilling and we would like to make sure we don't miss anybody, so please let us know if and when you would like to hang out!

*Love,*

*Dylan and Missy*

