



Latin America Ministry Team

July 2007

CRWRC

Living Justice, Loving Mercy

Dear Friends:

We send summer greetings your way, along with an update of transitions in Latin America.



Family Update. Caspar and I have enjoyed being together in Haiti since March! Reuben planted trees in Nova Scotia this summer and will soon come down to visit us for a few weeks. It has been 2 ½ years since his last visit, so there's excitement all around.

The coming school year will bring changes for us. Caspar has three more quarters of classes in order to finish his degree at Calvin Seminary. We decided that rather than spread this over three more years, we would bite the bullet and he would attend the full academic year, allowing him to graduate next May. My home service is scheduled for early 2008, so CRWRC has given me permission to spend the academic year with Caspar in Grand Rapids. I'll reduce my travel a bit, but still cover the countries, as needed. In between visits, most of my work is done by e-mail, so that will continue without interruption.

We have sub-let our home in Haiti and in August will pack up our belongings here for storage and then set up house in Grand Rapids for 9 months. Next June we'll be back in Haiti, anxious to see what the Lord has in store for us at that point.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support during these transitions.

Shalom, Leanne

from the Geisterfers & Caspar

Please note this change of address!

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If you would prefer future newsletters via e-mail, please drop me a note at the e-mail address above and I'll add you to the electronic list.



Once a week, the credit union groups meet to make loan payments. Careful records are kept so there is confidence in the leaders.

expansion efforts to a neighboring community of San Martin. They attribute this success to God's blessing on the solid training they do with groups and the participants' assimilation of the methodology. Participants are very active and committed to work for and with each other. They also have testimonies of individual success, which make others want to join. In order to grow, the groups need to put into practice values such as solidarity, risk-taking, respect, responsibility and a willingness to reach out to others.

That final value is key to the success of expansion. The promoters visit one of the larger existing credit unions, one that has at least 35 people and interest in growth. The promoters encourage the group to select 10 active, capable and very responsible members who will leave and foster the new group. If the small group is not the right one, this can be a risky strategy, but most of the time it has functioned well - especially with the expansion to San Martin.



Payment day is also an opportunity for selling products and socializing.

This visit was probably my last official CRWRC visit. But, seeing the progress of this group of women makes me confident their work will continue for many years. If I get a chance to return to El Salvador in some other capacity, I'll be anxious to visit them and hear about their most recent success stories. Pray with me for God's blessing on these dedicated women.



The AMFUME board presents CRWRC a plaque of appreciation.