

Mission Fiesta News Vol. XXX Issue 3 Summer 2014

Summer Observations and Conclusions

Submitted by Dan Ross, Mission Fiesta News Editor

Since Mission Fiesta is usually in Guatemala during the month of June, it seemed a little strange being home this year. So, I've made a few notes about summer, so far, that I will now share with you.

1. I managed to hit the ripe old age of 60 on June 21 and spent the evening in the company of some very dear friends which made this "milestone" not as bad as it could have been. But, I've already learned that the sun still rises and sets each day-even after hitting 60, the severe cold from the winter has been aptly replaced by the severe heat from the summer, I still have reasonable health and mental abilities (although the latter may be debatable among some?), my friends and family are still here to support me, and God is still in control. Conclusion: For all the changes that do occur, it's nice to know that the most important things remain unchanged.

2. People seem to be moving at full speed. They are busy tending gardens and flower beds, mowing lawns, and running weed eaters and grass blowers. Other popular activities include tweaking special "secret" recipes to enter at county fairs, canning and freezing produce, and trying to figure out what to do with the over-abundance of zucchini that has appeared overnight. Still, others prefer rushing to baseball games after work or finding a nice, cool pool or "swimming hole" to jump into to combat the heat and humidity. Conclusion: Summertime is a season for lots of activity before the more sedentary months of autumn and winter return.

3. We are surrounded by beauty. Luscious greens appear in the grass, trees, and plants that are flourishing. Many shades of different colors--pinks, reds, yellows, oranges, whites, purples, and even blues--dot the landscape in the buds and blooms of many seasonal flowers. The sun shines brighter and the days are longer to help us better notice these masterpieces that are handcrafted by God himself. Conclusion: We need to take more time to enjoy the offerings of summer.

Final Conclusion: Despite the often hot days, summer is a time to be enjoyed and savored, regardless of age, levels of activity, or location. Here's wishing you and yours a wonderful "rest of the summer!"

Mission Statement

Mission Fiesta is dedicated to helping organizations that provide services to the poor and needy as well as those who work with them. In keeping with our vision, "Celebrating Life," we hope to help everyone realize that they are special in God's sight.

Comments Or Suggestions

If you have any comments or suggestions concerning our newsletter, please email them to news@mfiesta.info or by postal mail to: Mission Fiesta News, P.O. Box 435, Lucasville, OH 45648. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

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A Word From Our Director

Submitted by Gary Baker, Mission Fiesta Director

My First Mission Trip

In the late 1980s, I decided that I would go on a short term mission trip. I found a trip to Mexico with Calvary Commission. It was during Easter break 1989 and was called the Mexico Easter Outreach. It was going to be an 'I trip'. I would go, I would enjoy and I would experience reaching out to the poor and needy.

I told my family, I told my friends and I told my church that 'I' was going on a short term mission trip. My cousin asked if she could go also--how could I say no? My 'I trip' would be 'I' plus one. Then two adults from church asked if they could go, a friend asked to go, three teens from my youth group wanted to go, a teen from a sister church in Indiana asked to go and she wanted to bring a friend and the friend who asked to go asked if a friend of theirs could go. Now my 'I trip' would be 'I' plus ten. Two of the ten I did not know and did not meet until we arrived at the airport.

So, I planned a trip for eleven. The trip was a positive experience for all eleven. Since that first trip in 1989, I have had the privilege of planning many 'We' short term mission trips. God has also allowed me to plan a few 'I' trips.

If you are planning to go on an 'I' trip, please listen well to the following advice. Don't tell anyone that you are going until the day you leave for the trip.

+Peace and Blessings

Mission Fiesta Prayer Ministry News

Submitted by Claudia Stapleton, M.F. Prayer Ministry Team Leader

Brief bio: I have been married to Bill Stapleton for 41 years and we live in southern Ohio. I retired from teaching in 2004 after 34 years of service. I'm thankful to say that I am a cancer survivor of 11 years. Intercessory prayer is a high calling and I am blessed to be associated with Mission Fiesta Prayer Ministry.

The Mission Fiesta Prayer Ministry has been a special interest of mine for over a decade. I began my training with Janet Hall and worked with her closely as a Prayer Ministry Associate. Janet was a great teacher and her enthusiasm for interceding for those with needs caused me to have an even closer relationship with God and prayer.

Janet prays for us daily and follows the requests and newsletters although she is now serving God in another capacity with witnessing. The Mission Fiesta Board of Directors asked me to accept the position of Prayer Team Leader and, after much prayer, I accepted.

Judy Peters and Dan Ross agreed to remain as Associates plus the Board approved Marci Smith as a new Associate.

I am blessed to have such a hard-working team working with me! We as a team handle the prayer requests, the updates and the monthly prayer calendar. Our many faithful prayer partners continue to intercede for those in need. We appreciate the prayer support!

Through Mission Fiesta Prayer Ministry we send a monthly prayer calendar to each of our Prayer Partners. Each month has a theme with a related song and Scripture verse. We have a different focus each day and several of our Prayer Partners make copies of the calendar for their home church congregations.

We are now offering the monthly Prayer Calendar to be emailed to anyone who would like a copy even if you are not a Prayer Partner. To receive the monthly Mission Fiesta Prayer Calendar just send an email to: intercessors@mfiesta.info with **PRAYER CALENDAR** in the subject and we will email the July calendar to you and continue with the once a month mailing as long as you like.

"The greatest thing anyone can do for God or man is pray." -- S.D. Gordon



Mission Fiesta Announcement

As you already know, our trip to Guatemala in June was postponed to a possible September trip. The reason for this delay was the health issues of team members Hazel Watson and Gary Baker. Thank you for your prayers for healing and speedy recoveries.

Both Hazel's and Gary's health issues are improved and they continue to trust God for full restoration of their health. However, at this time, neither will be ready for a September trip because of limitations in the amount of help they could contribute to the team. Also, the later trip reduced the number of team members that would be able to travel at that time. Therefore, we feel led to postpone our trip indefinitely.

We will keep you updated as to our plans for a future trip to Guatemala.

We will continue to rely on God for direction as to the work of Mission Fiesta. We appreciate your patience with us as God leads us through these health issues.

Again thanks for your prayers and support for our ministry to bring God's blessings to the poor and needy.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!
Psalm 27:14 (ESV)

*Check-out our website at www.mfiesta.org
We're also on Facebook!*

Facts About Guatemala

A Look at Guatemalan Wedding Customs

Since summer is a popular season for weddings in the United States, this article will take a look at "Weddings in Guatemala." Just as our traditional weddings have certain customs, so do Guatemalan weddings. And, as here, the traditions can vary by location or by choice of the bride and groom. Here are a few.

Arras Wedding Coins: One custom is for the groom to present the bride with thirteen gold coins. These coins represent Christ and his twelve apostles. They are sometimes given in a fancy presentation box and they become part of their family heirloom. The groom gives the bride these gold coins as a symbol of his unquestionable trust and confidence. The symbolism, which may be explained by the officiant, is that the groom recognizes his responsibility as a provider, and pledges his ability to support and care for her. Acceptance by the bride means taking that trust and confidence unconditionally with total dedication and prudence. As the groom pours the coins into the bride's cupped hands, sometimes their hands are tied with a ribbon at this point to symbolize their unity. The coins are typically inscribed with the words, "Recuerdo Matrimonial," which translates as "Wedding Souvenir" or "Marriage Memory."

Lasso (Lazo Cord): The Lasso is associated with a wedding prayer during the ceremony. The symbolism of the lasso is to show the union and protection of marriage. Special members of the wedding party may be in charge of lassoing the Bride and Groom together after they kneel for the wedding prayer. They drape what is usually a white satin circle of cord around the shoulders of the kneeling Bride and Groom, groom's shoulder's first. The couple wears the lasso throughout the remainder of the service. The loop is symbolic of their love, which should bind the couple together every day as they equally share the responsibility of marriage for the rest of their lives. At the end of the ceremony, the lasso is removed by the couple who placed the lasso on the couple, or the priest. The lasso is then given to the Bride as a memento of her becoming the lady of the groom's heart and home and shows their promise to always be together side-by-side.

Wedding attire: In the most traditional Guatemalan weddings, the bride wears the traditional dress--a brightly colored blouse and a wrap-around type skirt. The Spanish mantilla, or veil, completely covers the face and shoulders of the bride. Also, brides in many Latin-American countries wear a light blue slip beneath their dresses. The groom's attire usually consists of a simple dark suit, white or pastel shirt, and black tie and shoes. The flower girls and ring bearer may be dressed as miniature versions of the bride and groom.

Family Fun Page Summer 2014

Summer Jokes for Kids

What is black and white and red all over?

Answer: A sunburned zebra!

What do frogs like to drink on hot summer days?

Answer: Croak-a-Cola!

What does the sun drink out of?

Answer: Sunglasses!

Why do bananas use sunscreen?

Answer: Because they peel!

Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?

Answer: Because her class was so bright!



Good Morning Smoothie

1 cup ice

1 cup low-fat vanilla yogurt

1 ripe banana, cut into chunks

1 cup frozen strawberries

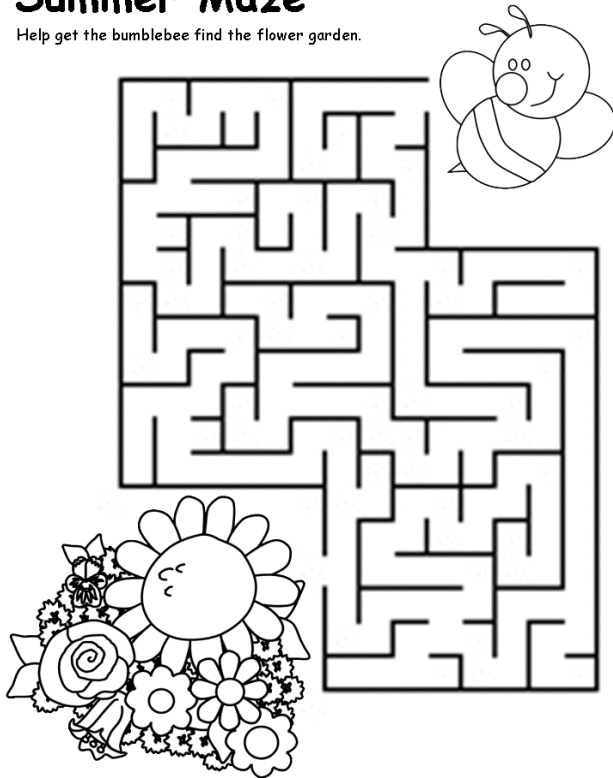
1/2 cup pomegranate or cranberry juice

Dash of vanilla

Directions: Place ice in blender; whirl to crush. Add remaining ingredients, and blend until smooth, about 30 seconds. Serve immediately.

Summer Maze

Help get the bumblebee find the flower garden.



Summer Word Ladder

Make your way from GREEN to GRASS by changing just one letter on each step to make a new word! There are 7 steps in this word ladder.



G R E E N Summer color.

G R Wanting everything.

R E Heavily wooded.

T R More than one tree.

R E Long lock of hair.

S S Old fashioned salad plant.

C R Crude.

G R A S S Dad's favorite plant.

Answer Key for Summer Word Ladder

GREEN

GREED

TREED

TREES

TRESS

CRESS

CRASS

GRASS

Download

	Attachments	Size	Action(s)	Send To
<input type="checkbox"/>	clip0004.jpg	13 k	Download	
<input type="checkbox"/>	clip0007.jpg	9 k	Download	
<input type="checkbox"/>	clip0008.jpg	5 k	Download	
<input type="checkbox"/>	clip0009.jpg	4 k	Download	
<input type="checkbox"/>	clip000a.jpg	2 k	Download	
<input type="checkbox"/>	clip000b.jpg	2 k	Download	
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