

Luce Leaf Notebook

Insert No. 63

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What a year this has been! It has been busy, exciting, emotional, challenging, nostalgic, ... All of these and more. The staff have been working hard to make this a strong finish to the ministry of Christiansen Academy, a full year of academics, athletics, extracurriculars, ministry and outreach. Lois and I have been involved in a number of ways this year.

Lois volunteered at the beginning of the year to be the School Hostess. She set up the guest facilities, and has kept them ready and welcoming for the hundreds of parent visits throughout the year. She has also been organizing the lodging for the over 250 additional guests who will be here over graduation and the alumni reunion week from May 31 – June 6 as we celebrate “Yesterday Once More” with returning alumni from around the world. Along the way she has kept up ministry of accountability with a couple staff women, and sought out individuals and families who need an extra hug, a listening ear or a word of encouragement, a cup of coffee or a bowl of soup. Ongoing friendship with two local Venezuelan pastor’s wives and a neighbor lady, as well as ministry to our beloved Isabel and her family, Lucy and her family have kept her in touch with our Venezuelan community.

I have been responsible for the academics at school, setting class assignments and schedules, supervising teachers and providing ongoing professional development for them through monthly in-service seminars. I have visited classrooms and videotaped classes for each teacher, published occasional papers for reflection on the craft of teaching, and worked with those who are in the process of setting career direction and goals in education. Working with students has involved academic advising and encouragement, making sure they are progressing smoothly toward meeting graduation requirements for CA and for the schools they will be transferring to next year.

As you know, Chris has been here on staff at CA this year. In addition to teaching Creative Writing and Photography, he has made a number of wonderful contacts in the community. One of his close friends, Porfirio Dávila, is a veterinarian and a poet. Chris has spent time visiting his farm and his office, and improving his Spanish by leaps and bounds. Porfirio and a local university professor organize an evening of music and poetry every couple months, and invited Chris to play the piano at their most recent program. It was held in the town’s public hall, and some staff and students came as well as people from the community. Chris played pieces by Rachmaninoff, Schubert, Chopin and Joplin, and was very well received.

Looming over all the year’s activities and responsibilities has been the immense task of preparing for closure of the ministry. There is much more to it than

turning off the lights and locking the door. The emotional preparation for students and staff to say good-bye to a home and family that will disappear in eight short weeks is staggering. In addition to many opportunities to help students take steps to smooth the transition process into a new school, country, and culture, we have tried to extend appropriate recognition to the Venezuelan churches, local businessmen and government officials, and friends and neighbors who have made our ministry here possible through the years.

The school has organized three special evenings of “Expression of Gratitude” for different segments of our community. I had the privilege of addressing two of them, and preparing a multi-media presentation that depicts the school, the town, and our connections through the years. These events have been very well received by the community, and have included the opportunity to explain once again the reason for our being here, the good news that every one from every culture can have a personal relationship with the God of the universe through faith in Jesus Christ. We

have offered Bible portions and literature to those who want it, and many have responded with interest to what was shared. Please pray that the Lord’s word will continue to affect the town of Rubio. The seven local churches also put together a “farewell” program for the school last Saturday, with music and drama from each congregation. It was evening of blessed unity, rich in relationships that will continue dear to us.

After graduation and alumni week, we will be in Rubio for another five weeks to finalize school records and office work, and pack our household for return to the US. We plan to arrive in Massachusetts at the end of July, when we will settle in and I will get back into the research for my dissertation. Lord willing I will have a proposal approved by January, and can start the actual data collection and analysis. Our desire is to continue with TEAM through this process, serving the Mission and the MK education community as a consultant and resource in professional development and personal growth for missionaries around the world.

Once again we appreciate you and your investment in the Lord’s work through us. You are a vital part of what He is doing here and as it extends worldwide. We look forward to sharing with you in person while we are in the US this fall.

Roger and Lois

Isabel's Family with us at CA



Rog and Lois in Cascarí