

# News from Barb

November/December 2005

## TESTIMONY OF GOD'S PROTECTION

*Before I had a chance to send this letter, I received a wonderful testimony of how God has His Hand in everything. The "What Would Jesus Do" situation that I mention in the letter has come about full circle. I have just heard from a friend in Cucuta, Colombia, that a leader in the big Assemblies of God Church in the area was concerned about one of his charges and mentioned it to the pastor. The pastor then went to that person's house to find the woman distraught in her worries. After a general prayer, she said that her son had been kidnapped and they didn't know anything about him. The pastor said that even in the prayer, God gave him reason and he told the woman that God has caused confusion to occur and that, even now, her son has found help and is on his way home. That same evening, "the son" came down through ABANSA property and we gave him a ride to town so that he could meet his wife. To God be the glory. He then later told the pastor that through a confusion among his captors, he was able to escape. The first house he went to gave him food, as he had not eaten in 4 days, and then he came on to ABANSA, because we have a car.*

*This testimony has confirmed many things about God's hand in His work here, that this place is and will be a lighthouse in the darkness and a refuge for those who are in need. I have thought many times about that man, praying for him, thanking God for his life. I am very glad to be able to know the rest of the story, especially when the story ends with Jesus.*

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope and pray that all is well with you. It is very hot and humid here since the rainy season has started. But we have many beautiful birds in this season that are joining with us or rather us with them, in praising God in song. Also, due to the rain, many brilliant flowers are helping us rejoice in God's creation.



*Cactus Flower*

*This flower was definitely a gift from God for us. It came almost as a surprise. One night (we seldom look up there at night) someone looked up and there it was. I think this bloom was the last of how many?-- and (at least) we saw*

## ABANSA

There has been a wave of violence in these parts and ABANSA has received some children into the homes due to this wave.

For example, a boy, received into ABANSA, Cucuta, watched as two men came to the house and shot both his mother and his stepfather. He, 6 yrs. old, said, "we saw that and we got scared and just ran." It is the purpose and prayer of ABANSA to receive such children and through the Holy Spirit, to help these kids to not grow up with a hatred for the murderers, buy a gun, and do the same to them.

The boys here on the farm, who are more or less teenagers, and in this country can legally work and provide for their parents and siblings, are bound to us by a signed "contract." Sounds strange, but if we didn't have something signed by each, they would be leaving and returning every time someone got mad. A contract is mainly for those who have some sort of family with whom to stay, but for reasons of risk, are in ABANSA as an alternative to living in the streets. A contract is usually for three years.

Still, a contract with ABANSA, Urenya, is just a piece of paper. We have had two boys break their contract with us. Both 14, Rigoberto ran away and Yasir decided to go.

God made each one of us body, spirit, and soul. Our bodies include the five senses, our spirit includes intuition, communion, and conscience. Our soul includes mind, emotions and will. I am sad that they have made this choice and claim the promise that the seed, which is the Word of God, planted into their hearts will not return void.

## SCHOOL NEWS

The school started again on schedule, K-6<sup>th</sup>—for the Glory of the Lord. And we already have a space problem with only the 4 classrooms. So, because we do not yet have secretaries, the kindergarten is in the secretaries office.

Thinking that the best way to get information into kids is to get them the closest to where the information is, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade meets in the library. This year school enrollment stands at 92. I am teaching English pronunciation in grades 2-6.



*Above -  
Hard-working Third  
Graders*



*Left-  
Happy, smiling  
Kindergarteners*

With six grades, the farm work has been again shifted to the afternoon. Slowly, yet surely, we get things done. The corn is growing as well as the yucca, or cassava, and we also have melons and pumpkins.

There is still a lot of work to do. We had a work team come from within Venezuela to help us in many things. It was a “first try” at missions for many of them.

I love seeing the world of missions open up to someone. A lot of young people in that group may want to do something more extensive in the future because of the experience they had on the first trip. It was actually the same for me. My first trip to Ecuador, in 1989, sparked a desire in me that caused me to turn my life around in missions for Jesus.



*Pastor Alberto getting the children ready to “jump for Jesus!”  
Each morning the children line up outside to sing the national  
anthem or the official school song.*

## WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

We recently had a “What Would Jesus Do” situation. A man came through the ABANSA property from up the mountain and down to us. He was scraped up and bleeding, leaning on a stick crutch, and quite shaken up. He told us that he and his boss had been kidnapped and that he escaped. He was then hit by a car while crossing the road and he believed that his knee was broken.

He fell while on his route and scraped his arms and chest on the rocks. The first place he found directed him to us because we have a car. He asked if we would take him to town so that he could at least call his wife. It was somewhat of a dangerous situation, especially as our neighbor came, described the man, and said, “be careful, you don’t know who he is.”

What would Jesus have done? We were getting ready to go to the evening service anyway, so

after telling the man about Christ's purpose for his life, we packed him in with our boys and took him to him to where he could meet his wife. He was very thankful to God for his life, even reclaimed. We instructed him to continue seeking God and find a church in which he can learn more about Christ's love for him.

His entrance onto the property raised a concern for us—that our “back door” is not protected—so now we make rounds of the property lines 2-4 times a week.

## TRIPS IN 2005

I made two trips to the States in 2005. The first was to complete a wonderful opportunity to visit Israel. I was there for two weeks in June. The trip opened my eyes to many things concerning God's covenant people. Israel is packed with biblical history, and while walking the same streets where Jesus walked, I was led into a deeper understanding of life in Jesus' time.

The second trip was a working trip as translator for Elda Lizcano, president of ABANSA, and missionary Ricardo Echevarria. We visited churches promoting ABANSA—My Refuge, in Venezuela, through Children of Promise International. The main purpose of the trip was to seek the possibilities of perhaps opening an ABANSA children's home in Baja California, Mexico.

Our lead into that area was through an Armenian man who, while visiting his friend in Venezuela, had gone to visit an ABANSA home and was very impressed with the concept. He has farm property in Baja California and wants to convert it into a working “farm home” through ABANSA.

We are now seeking the legalities of extending ABANSA to, at least, Mexico. A few years ago, Elda Lizcano had received as a prophecy that ABANSA would enlarge its borders to extend not only to other countries in the Americas but also to Europe. This Mexico link got us all excited, even that ABANSA would send its progeny out as missionaries.

## LIFE'S LITTLE JOYS

From one of my trips, I returned with a clock that had been in my mom's house. It's one of those clocks, that has a different bird song on the hour.

It is greatly confusing the natural birds that I have around my house. Some fly up to the window and some even into the house, seemingly looking for the “foreigners.” Any proclaimed hour can start up quite a concert.



*A Silver Beak visiting my window. This is just one of the birds that was looking for a way in through my window. Hummingbirds often come in through the window or door and can't find their way out until they let me shoo them out the door.*

## FAMILY NEWS

My mother has moved. After more than 40 years in the house in New Jersey, she is resituating herself in an assisted living resort in Rhode Island. It is quite a move, but she is enjoying being within two miles of some of her grandchildren.

Do you know my mom? You can write to her at: Corrine Decker, South Bay Manor, 1959 Kingstown Rd., Apt. 331, South Kingstown, Rhode Island, 02879. I'm sure she would like to hear from you and I thank you for it.

## THE GOD WHO PROVIDES

The gasoline situation here has not really gotten better. Gasoline station lines are still 4-8 hours long and the quantity is still rationed. During one trip home, I disciplined myself to live (and drive) in the lower half of the gas tank.

I have always lived in the top half of the tank; my dad always said, “it’s just as easy to fill the top half as the bottom half.” So now, though a fourth of a tank is better, an eighth of a tank is still good.

The water situation is not much better, but we have the rain to collect now so it’s not so bad. Enough rain has fallen to saturate the ground and cause gully washers. Our gully, which we have planned and fortified, walled and braced, is now being tested by the rains.

The gully never holds water for long, so after the water levels recede and the water runs — not clear but less muddy — the boys take advantage of the opportunity and wash some clothes in the stream. It’s mostly fun for them, and they get cleaner smelling clothes out of the deal.



*Sergio, Franklin and Lusimi washing clothes.*

## THANK YOU!

*I thank you all for your continued support in God's work in this area of the world through myself and Children of Promise International. I pray that God will continue to bless you for your obedience and involvement in world missions.*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Barbara Decker*

## I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

My address here is: Barbara Decker, Sector Los Taladros, Vía La Mulata, Calle Principal, Casa No. 22B, Ureña, Táchira, 5048-000, Venezuela, South América. I check the post office at least once a month for the phone bill. If you call, 011-58-276-511-1593, please be patient—I am in the process of prepping the boys how to receive an English caller.

My e-mail address is still the same - [bdecker47@cantv.net](mailto:bdecker47@cantv.net) or [bdecker47@juno.com](mailto:bdecker47@juno.com) . I check both of them.

If you have any questions about any of the projects in Ureña or short-term mission trips, please contact  
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*“Religion that is pure and undefiled is to look after orphans and widows...”*

*James 1:27*