

It has been almost a year since we last communicated with some of you. We hope you still remember the little coffee shop in Guatemala and the Roberts family? We are still alive and kicking, with many blessings to report.

The fame of Crossroads Cafe has spread significantly worldwide! A steady stream of Japanese, Europeans, North Americans and even Guatemalans from the capital, have stopped by as a result of someone's personal recommendation or the internet. Our business has increased significantly, to the glory of God, Whom we believe is responsible for all these blessings. So, we do not rely on our own wisdom or skill at all, but trust and honor Him completely. We have especially been busy with coffee sales (by the pound) for short-term groups from the States or Canada. They come down for a few weeks to do medical clinics or building projects. Before they leave, they usually come to the lake for gift and souvenir shopping, and our coffee fits right in that category! After a lot of discussion and with some hesitation, we raised our drink and pastry prices slightly in the beginning of this year. No one has complained so far, and we enjoy a little better reward for our labors "under the sun"!

In October last year we experienced a slight disappointment on our property. We just finished fencing the whole area with chainlink, with the purpose of establishing our borders and to keep people from cutting the trees for firewood. It took us about a year to complete the task, with much sweat and time invested by us and several volunteers. One lovely day we went up there for a picnic and discovered that half of the fence was missing - stolen, posts and all! We were rather shocked and angry, but later on we realized some of the reasons why that had to happen. God is in control and perfectly able to protect our borders, so He has a plan with big and small calamities in our lives. Don't you agree? Anyway, our thinking has changed regarding this building project. We decided to rather build a cement block wall all around (too heavy to carry away) and we finally gave in and hired someone to do the sweating! Our man's name is Hilario Hernandez. He has proved himself to be a builder who is distinguished, organized, reliable and affordable. We are so grateful for him and see him as a God-sent blessing. Since December he and his sons have built and finished a cement water tank (filled with water from an artesian well above our land) and this week they should complete a small shed (also built with cement), where they plan to store materials for now, with the intention of permanent use later on. The next project is a driveway from the road up to our intended building site. Up till now our God has provided enough business for us to pay Hilario as well as buy the materials! We take it one step at a time and try to keep up with the great adventure!!! Hee haw!

As you know, we have been in Guatemala almost three years. Our visas have been for only 90 days at a time and so we had to go on a short trip every three months. We enjoyed exploring El Salvador, Honduras and Belize for a few days at a time. But it has become a burden we no longer care to bear! We usually returned exhausted and our van is starting to protest the long miles as well. So, now we are applying for residency here. We needed a Guatemalan sponsor, and just recently some of our friends in the neighboring town of Solola, offered of their own accord, to be just that for us! It should take about 4 months and hopefully not as many headaches as crossing borders four times a year! It really looks like we are pushing down our roots in the fertile volcanic soil of this beautiful country, doesn't it?

Our girls are developing fast, physically and character-wise. Kasia is nine and Lungi six. They are enthusiastic readers, for which we are grateful. They have many good friends and regular visitors. Some of their favorite things to do are spy games, dog orphanages (stuffed animals), medieval wars and riding on their scooters. They are a great help to me and do their chores with good attitudes most of the time. Some nights they surprise Mom with a delightful foot rub and making me feel really special.

Well, I think you all feel more informed about the Robertses than you may have for a long time! We certainly think about you often and miss visiting over cups of good coffee...

Hugs from all of us!

Michael, Adele, Kasia and Lungi Roberts

Crossroads Cafe

Panajachel, Guatemala

