

I crossed the border from Mexico in to Guatemala a while back and encountered a minor irritation. I got my passport stamped with the exit visa from Mexico, no problem. Then moved my car across the bridge about 100 feet in to Guatemala and went to the migration checkpoint to get my entrance visa stamp in my passport for Guatemala. Got my stamp, no problem. All I need now are the permission documents allowing my car in to Guatemala. The four different offices I need to go to are all right there together so I make my rounds, mission accomplished. All that's left is to show the border guards my stamped passport and I'm on my way.....only, where is my passport? I just had it. Searched the car and it's not there. Went to all the offices I had been to, nobody had seen it. I was standing there weighing my options, (there weren't many), when a seedy looking character ambled up and said he knew who had my passport and for \$200 he could get it for me. After some tense negotiation and \$100 lighter the passport appears! A few lessons; Even though I've crossed the border dozens of times and I "know the ropes", one shouldn't get so comfortable to be hung by them. I was relieved and thankful that I didn't have to spend the \$400, three days, and a trip to Guatemala City and the U.S. Embassy.

Thanks to the friends of the mission who responded to last month's update where I shared the need to help get shoes and dresses shipped to Guatemala. Muchisimo gracias, (many many thanks)! In the past couple of weeks we have shipped five large boxes.

In the February update I also told about Carmen's appointment to see an eye surgeon from the U.S. We did get her to the clinic and the news wasn't what we had hoped for. She is not a candidate for surgery and she will eventually go blind.

In the past I've often thought of this paraphrase below from Romans 12:1&2 in The Message. It will help one keep his sanity in an otherwise insane world.

**So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life--your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life--and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.
(Rom 12:1-2 MSG)**

Pressing On....