

## Happy New Year!

### Four Years for the Stiffs!

This month the Stiff family completes four years of living and serving in Guatemala. It is because of your prayers and financial support that we have been able to experience such a rich first missionary term. Thank you for investing in what God is doing in and through Central America. As you support us, you are supporting leadership training in the local church, the training of Central Americans to go out as missionaries, and the motivation for a new generation to give their lives to serve the Lord. May God bless you as you have blessed us by being a part of our team!



### Kayla in Kindergarten

Yes, this month our oldest daughter begins kindergarten in a Guatemalan bilingual school. She loves the school already, as she was able to

attend the vacation course during November, and is eager to return. She and her little sister, Elena (who will begin preschool), will go to school from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. daily. Their school overlooks the city, has a beautiful campus full of flowers and trees, teaches in Spanish and English, offers French as a third language, computers, gardens, a mini-zoo, and a wonderful teaching staff. We are delighted to have our girls studying at Suger Montano.



*Project Mies 2003 participants.*

### MIES Ministers to Many

For the last two months of 2003, the Stiffs helped to train and send four Guatemalan and three Mexican missionaries on a one-month short-term experience in the interior of Guatemala. The MIES team divided into groups of two or three and lived in a remote village in which they worked alongside the local pastor in his ministry. Most of the group has already made decisions to go into full-time missions. Pray with us as God continues to mold their hearts and their lives!

### CEMCA in Session

The missionary training institute where Kyle and Nell teach, CEMCA, begins another year this month with Nell teaching Basic Values. The second trimester, Kyle will teach Missions in the book of Acts, and to end out the year, they will offer Cross-Cultural Communications during the third trimester. Please pray that God would bring the students He ordains to study this year and prepare to go overseas. Also pray for Nell and Kyle as they continue to develop curriculum for these three courses.



*Nell giving cross-cultural training.*

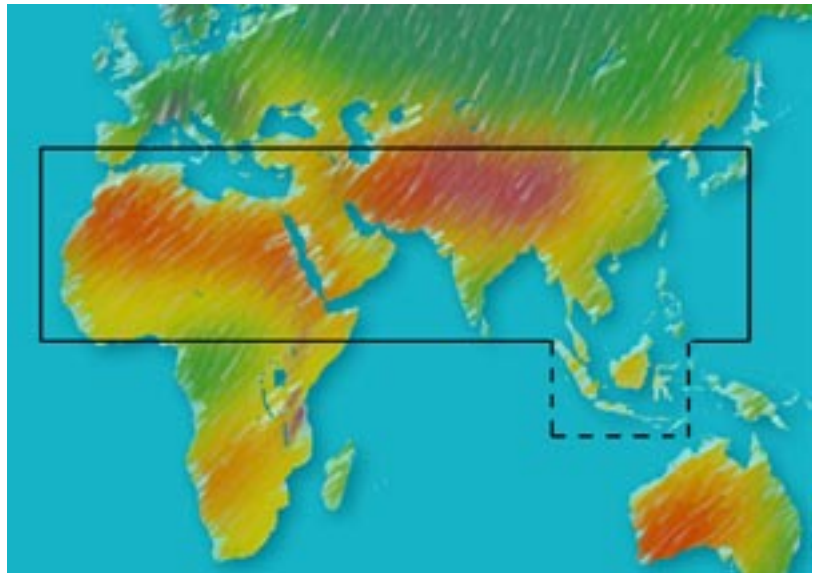
May God bless you in 2004,

*Kyle & Nell*



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Countries in what is known as the 10/40 window (between the 10th and 40th parallels) are home to almost 90% of the world's unreached people.
- Conservative estimates suggest that less than 10% of the world's Christian resources are focused on work in this needy region.
- North Africa, the Middle East, the Gulf States, Northern India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and other neighboring states are generally closed to traditional missionaries and to traditional mission approaches.
- The Apostle Paul was a "Tentmaker" by profession, but not merely to make money. The real-time relationships of a Christian in the workplace can and should be significant.
- Sometimes one of these countries will allow a foreign Christian a work visa, if they bring a needed skill, profession, or business investment. We call this Creative Access.
- Some countries do not want Christians of any kind, and entry requires that a visitor's work there to be not only practical, but their witness must be extremely careful. We call these "Restricted Access" nations.
- In many cases prayerful job selection enables visiting believers to use their "work" to directly assist The Church, even as Paul's on-the-job relationship with Aquilla and Pricilla (Acts 18) was used to mentor significant new leaders for young churches.
- OCI has received numerous invitations from The Church in many of these nations to help in areas of grassroots evangelism, leadership training, and church multiplication.
- OCI has placed forty eight people whose work is focused on serving these least-reached peoples all across this needy region.
- All of them are about the business of building the Kingdom of God, but NONE of them can be known as "Missionaries" in their daily relationships.
- If you have a friend serving God in one of the countries on the map above, you can help protect their work, their contacts, and their long-term effectiveness by being careful in your communication with them and any publicity of their Kingdom ambitions.



THE NEW 10/40 WINDOW

**For more information on how to relate to workers in creative and restricted access nations, contact Doug Lagassé, Director of Creative Access, in our International Mobilization Center at – Mail: P.O. Box 36900, Colorado Springs, CO 80936; E-mail: [DougLagasse@oci.org](mailto:DougLagasse@oci.org); Phone: 719-592-9292.**