Yes, I know it is still several months until Christmas, but here in Guatemala some stores already have their Christmas displays up. Since the end of July Pricesmart, Walmart and others of the big stores in the mall were well underway, some mixing their displays with the “fall” (a season we don’t have here) and Halloween decorations. Every year I am amazed at how early these displays show up, but then start disappearing by mid December, (at least as far as the decorations go) even before the holiday itself! It is also ironic to see the symbolism of the holiday being so heavily slanted towards decorations we would find in the USA (such as snowmen in a country that doesn’t get snow?!), reindeer, etc. I remember trying to find Christmas music in Spanish, and found there really isn’t much local music about Christmas that isn’t a translation of an English song. Guatemala certainly has wonderful Christmas traditions (like fireworks!!!!), but more about that another day.

We are so blessed with an amazing team of people who regularly support us in prayer and finances. We depend on these to be able to minister to the children of Guatemala. The end of the year is always a tight time financially as taxes, insurance, and other expenses pile up. As you consider the end of year giving we invite you to partner with us in our work and ministry here.

Donations can be given online at www.cten.org/dennisfreed or mailed to CTEN, PO Box 291307, Kerrville, TX, 78029-1307, with a note indicating the donation is for Freed Family support. May God bless your faithfulness and generosity.

OPEN HOUSE: December 1, 2019 @ 2:30 PM
Landisville Mennonite Church, 3320 Bowman Rd, Landisville, PA 17538
Come and hear about our family, work, and ministry in Guatemala with ORI. We know this is a busy time of year, but hope you can come to hear and say “hi.” We will have some amazing Guatemalan coffee available as well. For more information: dennisfreed63@gmail.com.

PRAISE: We celebrate God’s provision and faithfulness, and trust His continued presence in our lives:

1. Oswaldo received a 10 year visitor visa, allowing us to purchase our tickets for a visit stateside in December.
2. Transition to work with ORI has gone well, with opportunities to minister to the physical needs of the children, and to the directors and staff in the hard work they do.
3. A community group from our church is a place of encouragement and connection for Barb and Denny.
4. Safety and protection in the rigors of life and travel.
5. God’s care of our daughters in PA and their lives.

PRAYER: We pray:

1. That God would open a clear door for Oswaldo’s next year of school.
2. A job for Omar
3. Financial provision and wisdom in the use of the resources we are given.
4. Continued connection and ministry with the homes we serve through ORI.
5. Safe travels and a time of refreshment and connection with family and friends during our December travels.
6. To focus on the task at hand, and not to be distracted.
A Friend of a Friend...  One of the wonderful benefits of the work we do with Orphan Resources is the different people we meet who want to help minister to children in need. Last year I received an email from a friend introducing me to someone she knew who was coming to Guatemala and had a suitcase of shoes that she had collected to donate and wanted to know if we could use them for the children. Obviously shoes are a highly needed item in many homes so she brought the shoes to Guatemala and left them for me to collect. Many of those shoes were for older girls, so Barb was able to take some of these to a home with young mothers and be sure they had shoes to use (picture upper right).

Recently we received another email from this lady asking if I could meet her at the airport as she was coming with a team and they were bringing several (8!!) suitcases of donations for ORI of shoes, underwear, socks, and other clothes (photo at right of some of the donors and their suitcases). They also had collected money to be able to buy shoes for children who’s sizes we didn’t have and other clothes which may be needed.

Barb spent several days sorting and organizing the shoes and clothes which were donated, as well as going through the shoes we already had available at the warehouse. It had come to our attention that one home was desperately in need of shoes, so Barb selected some shoe possibilities and then spent an afternoon fitting the kids with a new pair of shoes and socks with the help of a friend. Through this generosity, the children were blessed. We have two more homes who have asked specifically for shoes, and Barb is in the process of getting things organized for them as well. A new set of shoes and socks brings big smiles to children’s faces! And what a gift we experience when we are able to pass on the blessings!!