

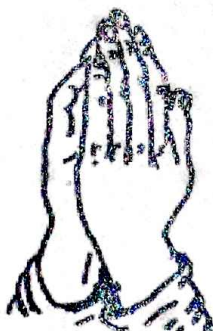
## “Weather Forecast: Winter Storms are coming!”

—by Paul Bernhagen

Have you ever been caught in a storm? If you're alive to read this, that means that you must have made it through. What about a storm in your life? Jesus tells us that the storms will come (Matthew 7:25), but he also assures us that he's with us and there to help us pull through life's storms (Matthew 8:26).

This year seems to have brought a lot of natural disasters once again to many people with Hurricane Sandy and many other storms devastating the lives of millions of people. Storms are a very relevant part of our existence. Here in Costa Rica and particularly at the camp, we're being hit by very high winds once again. This reminds me of an unforgettable moment back in January 2005, one year before we opened the camp. We were just finishing the construction of our first two buildings—a kitchen and our staff house. On one particular morning, the winds were so high that they lifted the roof off of our kitchen and folded one-half of this conventional roof on top of the other half. My immediate reaction was one of dismay, but after I and others looked on that morning, we saw God's hand of mercy. We gave him thanks because he allowed this to happen before children came who otherwise could have been hurt or killed. By God's mercy, we were able to strengthen the roof so that it has been able to withstand even higher winds of over 50 mph and our total cost for the reparation was around \$250. To God be the glory!

More storms will come. The question is: how did we make it through that storm in 2005? And how do you and I make it through each storm that will come



our way? The key is our foundation. If we are looking to ourselves for the solutions to the storms of life, then we say, “We have control, total control and we can work through them ourselves.” If we trust in Jesus, then we are like the wise man or woman who built his or her house not on just any old rock, but on **THE ROCK**. Jesus Christ is that rock. He is the only one who can bring stability and security to our lives when we face the storms of life. When Jesus was born, Joseph was told in a dream to give him the name Jesus because he would save his people from their sins. His name is above all names, and in his name we have salvation from every difficult situation, even death because his name means “**The LORD saves.**” He is the living word that dwelt among us and as the lamb of God, showed God's love in action, by giving his life on the cross to set us free from our sins. In him, we have security, the forgiveness of our sins, life everlasting, and an abundant life right now, in the midst of storms.

This is why God led me to choose the theme of “building my house on the rock” for our upcoming January 2013 camping season. We know that there is power in the name of Jesus and when we bring the living message of the gospel of Jesus Christ to these children, the Holy Spirit will work his saving grace in their lives, and they will have a solid foundation on which to stand all of their lives and into eternity.

Thank you for partnering with us so that more children in this beautiful country will be able to withstand the storms that are coming and know that Jesus will pull them and you and me through whatever may come! To him be the glory!

“On Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand! Amen!”

## Shipment coming from Miami

By the time you receive this newsletter, we should have received some very important goods that were shipped from the Miami port. The items are a newer, larger pickup, a fully electronic 4x4 Polaris Ranger (for daily chores between the town where we live and the camp), solar equipment, some small machines and generators, and some items for farm improvement. The road was a difficult one to get these items shipped



and many thanks go to Rick Royston who was the key player in this shipment. God showed his mercy on us to allow these items to get into our hands to be used for his glory! This is not an easy process from the export (USA) or import (Costa Rica) side, but the Lord protected these goods and gave us fair treatment in what we had to pay in import taxes.

To him be all the glory!



## Looking ahead to 2013 with New Projects

The projects planned for next year will bring a new look to the recreation areas for the children and also some improvement to the farming and gardening projects.

1. Tree house—Dave Stuehmeyer, from Penuel Missouri staff, will help us build this strong and firm. This will be the beginning of our 1<sup>st</sup> playground.
2. Courts—We will be redoing the volleyball court and painting lines on the main concrete court to be used for basketball and tennis and we know the children will play soccer there as well.
3. Memorial Garden Welcome Station—This will be a wooden kiosk to guide people on their tour of this nature trail dedicated in honor of the camp's first donor, Paul's grandmother, Elvira Narr.
4. Farm advancement—We continue to make investment in the farm to improve our dairy herd and clean living conditions for our other animals. Cheese sales have been very successful, and we are working to make our garden more and more productive to help lower our food expenses.



Gardeners Kathy and Walt Haas are preparing the garden for the upcoming camping season. They continue to make compost so the soil will produce more in the future.

## There's Room in the Inn

Come and see the camp first-hand.



Currently there are openings in the mission house for individuals or groups up to 10 persons after January 13, 2013. If interested, contact Paul directly at [benbern@racsa.co.cr](mailto:benbern@racsa.co.cr) or go to the website: [www.cp-cr.org](http://www.cp-cr.org)



### Camperships for children

Scholarships remain at \$20 per child so these amounts are always appreciated. The camp now has room for 80 children at one time so more children can be served if the scholarship fund increases. Thank you for your continued support for these camperships.

*If you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to Camp Penuel Costa Rica, you may mail it to CPCR, PO Box 392, Hutchinson, MN 55350. Envelope enclosed.*

**Need a speaker for your group or club? —**

**Contact John Bernhagen — Call or E-mail.**

**Tele: 320-587-6508 or E-mail: [jlb@hutchtel.net](mailto:jlb@hutchtel.net).**

**For Information about the Camp, check the website—[www.cp-cr.org](http://www.cp-cr.org)**