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We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! Our last few months have been jammed packed with all sorts of fun and trials. On a family note, my (Renée's) parents were just here for a two week visit. They had a lot of fun working with House 2 and with Misión Zoe. We ended our visit with a trip to the beach in Honduras. Not only was it beautiful, but it was an opportunity to have some uninterrupted family time, which is hard for us to do in Guatemala. Zac got to go in the ocean for the first time. We also got up close and personal with dolphins, monkeys and parrots. We were very blessed that my parents could share this time with us and watch as Zac continues to grow. He even took his first step when they were here (he can now take 11 in a row ?)!
H2 on the roof of the hotel

Onto our ministries... as promised Danny and I took the House 2 children to Guatemala City to celebrate the passing of their exams. Since it was around Christmas we combined their gifts and spent the night in a nice hotel. They were so excited and took advantage of everything the hotel had to offer (the pool, Jacuzzi, gym, internet, etc.) We also went out to eat and saw Zorro II in the movie theater. Of course the main highlight was that they got to spend 36 straight hours playing with Zac. We had a blast. For Christmas we did our annual Zoe party and then the following night (Christmas Eve) we had a Christmas program and party at the House of Hope. The children from House 2 then came over and spent the night at our house, which was a real treat for them as well. They have now returned to school. Lilian is now able to study at Oasis (the school at the House of Hope). I am really excited about this as I think the more personalized attention will help her greatly. Hilaria will also be going back to school on the weekend program. Santos and Estuardo will continue to go to Elim. Please continue to pray for the children and for us as many difficult decisions are in the process of being made concerning them. Please pray for wisdom as we move forward.

The New Year is bringing about exciting changes in Misión Zoe, the most significant being that I (Danny) have taken over the position of lead pastor. As you may know, over the last three and a half years, we have served alongside Lindell and Charlotta, who were the first ones called to begin Misión Zoe. As of March, they are returning to California to raise support and seek future church planting endeavors, possibly in New Zealand. So, this means that I alone will be carrying out all of the pastoral responsibilities and directing the church in the vision that God has given us.

This shift of leadership comes simultaneous with other exciting changes. Just this past week, we rented a Misión Zoe House just one block from Central Square. We will have a lot of work to do to fix it up, including painting, installation of windows and doors etc... (for instance, the bathroom has no door and there are three huge window openings with no covering looking right onto the courtyard –not necessarily very personal!). The vision for the Zoe House is quite exciting. First of all, we will grow spiritually by allocating rooms for Bible studies, a library, a quiet room for studying or prayer (imagine their small houses cramped with so many people—very difficult for our youth to study the Bible or

anything at home), and a worship practice room. I will also move my office from our house to the Zoe House! The second purpose is to attract the thousands of Zacapa youth, many of whom swarm Central Park everyday. We will create a fun center through activities such as foosball and ping-pong, and are training our youth to build relationships and share the Gospel message with those who wander in. To help out with the Zoe House and other facets of our ministry, God has sent us much needed help in the way of four interns. Jason and Laura, both 19 years old and from the U.S., have just finished language school—Jason will live at the Zoe House. Germán and Josué (from Honduras and Guatemala, respectively) have just completed a two year Bible school in eastern Guatemala and will serve with Misión Zoe two days each week.

New Zoe House

Danny and Lindell baptizing Lourdes

In other Misión Zoe news, we have recently begun two Outreach Bible study groups, led by Guatemalan youth. We also recently baptized three youth. However, despite these great victories and exciting possibilities, the last few months have been by far the toughest period of ministry for Misión Zoe. We have purposely made some tough decisions and have dealt with some difficult issues, and consequently we have lost a number of youth. In addition, some of our core youth have forsaken their faith and returned to their old lifestyles. Though this has shaken the church, I praise God for His readiness to prune His church (John 15) and His promise that the gates of hell will never prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). I am grateful that He has called others to build His church and we continue moving forward! Please pray for us as this Friday, Jan. 27 we go to a public high school to give a two hour evangelistic event to the entire student body of 450 students.

In Christ's awesome love,
Danny, Renée and Zac

-Danny and Renee Brooks