

*“...And surely I am with you always, to the very
end of the age.”*

Matthew 28:20

What does someone really mean when he/she declares “It’s a God thing!” It may seem pretty obvious, but it wasn’t to us when we first heard it on our first mission trip to Chichicastenango, Guatemala.

On that, and subsequent, mission trips to Chichi, we began sharing with our traveling missionary partners during evening vespers the experiences we had had during the day when one of us had a “God unexpectedly showed up experience.”

Here are two experiences we had: We were in a remote part of the village trying to negotiate with a TukTuk (tiny three wheeled taxi) driver. We couldn’t communicate, the driver was seemingly angry and insistent, and we were somewhere between unnerved and frightened. We were getting nowhere, looked up and were greeted by an unlikely local who recognized us, saw our dilemma and quickly settled the issue. “A God Thing.”

On one mission trip we brought our granddaughter who was 14 years old at that time. She was permitted to be released from school for the trip, but was required by her stringent English teacher to “interview an author during her visit to Guatemala.” Well, we thought, there surely aren’t many authors in the remote third world village of Chichicastenango. But, lo and behold, Bill Vasey was temporarily living in the village and was translating the Bible from Spanish to Queche, the local language. We met and had lunch together while our granddaughter interviewed the author. He even gave her a copy of his translated New Testament! (On return to high school she made her report *and* received an A+). Bill Vasey was probably the first and only author to ever live in Chichi. “A God Thing.”

“It’s a God’s Thing” when God shows up at unanticipated times and under situations when one’s mind is sort of elsewhere and yet we are in need. In Chichi and anywhere, we have learned to be in prayer with God and ask that He be there to help, we then just patiently wait, sense, look and anticipate His help and “He does show up.” Guaranteed. “It’s a God thing.”

“He has risen indeed”

Thank you, Lord, for always showing up. Help us to never take You for granted, but to look for You in all of our everyday circumstances. Amen.

Jan & Bill Smedley

(Submitted in 2009)

