

Bound for Guatemala...

Bob and Georgette Kornegay becoming missionaries

Q. — What does it take to divest yourself of almost all of your belongings and leave home, family and friends behind as you head to a foreign land to begin a new life?

A. — A strong belief in God and trusting that you are following His will.

Bob and Georgette Kornegay have that certainty as they finalize preparations to become full-time missionaries. They plan to join their newly formed Servants Hearts Ministries with Charlie and Pat Reynolds' His Anointed Time Ministry in Guatemala.

The Kornegays began giving away and selling most of their possessions a few weeks ago. The couple, married 16 years and with five grown daughters between them plus numerous grandchildren, will drive to Guatemala, leaving Snyder Oct. 8. They will travel in Bob's pickup, hauling a white trailer loaded with a few necessities like a gas range, washer, dryer, sewing machines, refrigerator and their personal belongings.

They will also transport a golf cart for Pat Reynolds who is par-

tially crippled from polio, making it difficult for her to walk between the various ministries she and her husband founded in Guatemala. The former Snyder residents moved to that country seven years ago.

The Reynolds are currently looking for a home for the Snyder couple to rent.

The Kornegays home church, First Baptist Church, will commission the couple as

missionaries on Oct. 7.

Bob said they estimate four days travel time, but the couple are not in a hurry.

"We want to take our time and enjoy the sights," Bob said, noting that they have been told it will be safer for them to travel through Mexico in a convoy.

That's why they will stop in McAllen where they hope to join such a group.

"We may have to camp out a

couple of days (while trying to find others headed into Mexico)," Bob said. "But we will drive by ourselves, under God's protection, if we have to."

He said Pat and Charlie once made the journey in 2½ days, following an escort who was familiar with the route. But their first attempt driving alone took five days. Bob isn't sure of the actual miles from Snyder to Guatemala; however, according

to the Internet, the distance is about 1,400 miles.

Bob and Georgette each have some knowledge of the Spanish language but Georgette said, "I understand it better than I can speak it."

Since Guatemalans speak Spanish with a Mayan dialect, the couple will attend a two-week language school when they arrive at their destination.

"We will learn the basics of

how to communicate with the natives," Bob said. The rest will come from immersing themselves in the culture and working with Guatemalans.

Georgette noted that inhabitants of different areas in Guatemala also speak different dialects.

The Kornegays aren't worried about what lies in store for them as missionaries.

"We feel like God is watching over us," Georgette said. Bob added, "We feel covered in prayer. The Body of Christ supports us in that area."

Georgette said they are very grateful for their "generous friends who are supporting us through this wonderful blessing."

Bob added, "We are seeing the Body of Christ in action. People have opened their hands to support us financially."

They are committed to serving in Guatemala for at least a year. They also said their desire is to spend the rest of their lives as missionaries, even if not in Guatemala.

For the foreseeable future though their desire is to help the Reynolds with their work. Seven years ago Charlie started out teaching Guatemalan police officers.

Now their ministry includes a Christian school in Buena Vista begun four years ago that accommodates grades K-3. Bob said the Reynolds desire is to expand the school to include fourth through sixth grades. Beyond that students would attend either a public or private school, with possible financial help from His Anointed Time Ministry for a private school education.

The Reynolds also began a See Kornegays, Page 5B



MISSIONARY COUPLE — Bob and Georgette Kornegay will leave Snyder next month, bound for Guatemala, where they will join their Servants Hearts Ministries with Charlie and Pat Reynolds's His Anointed Time Ministry. The Reynolds, both former residents, have worked in Guatemala for seven years. (SDN Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

Scurry County Folks

By Shirley A. Gorman

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Kornegays preparing for missionary life

Continued From Page 1B water ministry where water is first purified and then distributed to the poor and hungry.

Bob said Charlie's vision is not only to add more water purification centers in poor areas of Guatemala but also to teach people about the dangers of consuming unpurified water.

Bob noted that though the water looks clear, in reality it is filled with microbes, parasites and bacteria that make anyone who drinks it sick. The water station now operating uses chlorine gas to purify the water.

The Reynolds also are building a retreat center for native Guatemalans as well as missionaries from other countries who need time to rest or attend seminars.

In addition, they operate a large vegetable garden year round and distribute the food to the poor and the hungry, Bob said.

There will be plenty of work to keep the Kornegays busy, including construction which they both love. Construction sites include the school and retreat center. For years they have helped from 250-350 other Texas Church Builders build

churches — Baptist and non-denominational — in Eula, Rocky Ford, Colo., Corbin, Ky. and Prairieville, La.

In seven days, the volunteers build and dry the frame. Then either another group of volunteers or the congregation completes the inside work.

"My dad was a painting contractor," Georgette said. "I think it is in my blood."

She added that she loves all types of construction, but "usually ends up working on the roof."

Bob's parents, Harold and Zola Kornegay, have volunteered with Texas Church Builders for a number of years.

"They always told us if we went one time we would be hooked and they were right," Georgette said.

The local couple knew of the work of Pat and Charlie but had never met them until they visited Guatemala with a group from the First Baptist Church in November of last year. Previously, they had participated in mission trips to India.

Then in June of this year, Bob and Georgette returned to Guatemala where they lived with the Reynolds for 15 days.

Each learned about the others' "heart for the Lord and for missionary work."

They have long been involved with projects to help people by building churches and teaching



NEW MISSIONARIES — Bob and Georgette Kornegay will soon become missionaries in Guatemala. They are relaxing in a swing set in their front yard. (SDN Staff Photo By Shirley A. Gorman)

After returning from India, the Kornegays began thinking about becoming missionaries.

classes at the Price Daniel Unit. With all five daughters grown and with families of their own,

the self-described "empty nesters" began thinking of making a change in their lives.

"After the missionary trip to India, we knew that's the direction we wanted to go," Georgette said. "But after our first visit to Guatemala, Bob was ready to pack our bags and go right back."

Georgette convinced her husband to slow down, explaining that they needed to make sure that that was really what they were supposed to do. A lot of praying and soul-searching followed, and in the end, the Snyder couple came to accept that God was calling them to the missionary life.

A lot of preparations followed, including becoming debt free, which Bob is happy to say that they now are. They arranged for Bob's brother, Kenny, to lease their home for a year. Also, they began either giving away or selling whatever they will not take on their journey.

When asked if they will miss any of their "things," George answered, "No. We are not high maintenance people. And we never have been."

"I know it is a temporary feeling, but it's liberating to get rid

of all of this stuff. I'm really happy," Bob chimed in.

As the couple solidified their life-changing decisions, Georgette said their daughters were upset at first and then in denial because "they did not think we would go through with it." In time, though, they accepted that their loved ones were following God's plan.

"They will cry, be lonely and miss us," Georgette said. "But they know our hearts and that we will do what God wants us to do."

The Kornegays seek no glory for themselves. Rather, they said it belongs to God and they are just trying to follow His will.

Their daughters who live here include April Jones, Kristi Baker, Kari Davis and Serena Hegedus. Kellie Diguangco lives in Canada.

Bob moved to Snyder in 1964 at the age of six. His dad served as Department of Public Safety trooper for several years. Georgette and her sister, Anita, moved to Snyder in 1989. Both were widows at the time and since another sister Lorrie Cooley lived here, they decided to move to Snyder. Lorrie passed away in 1995.