

CAMINANDO POR LA PAZ GUATEMALA

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New School Year

February was the beginning of the school year and the start of tutoring again.

Cuaresma and Semana Santa

Lent and Holy Week are very important cultural events in Guatemala and the program participated in these events with the neighborhood.

Cross Catholic

We had a visit from the organization that is sponsoring some of our students in school as well as funding our meal program for tutoring.

Coffee Update

We received some exciting news at the affiliate meeting.

Meditation

Reflecting on the Beatification of Oscar Romero.

Program Needs

We are always in need of support in many forms.



New School Year

February is the time of the year that students return to school in Guatemala. In addition to returning to school our students also returned to tutoring. The program is currently supporting a large number of students in private school as well as in public schools. Each of these students has the benefit of receiving tutoring at the program Monday through Thursday. The tutoring program allows the students to receive extra help with their homework as well as with any subjects they may need some extra explanation and support with. YOUR donations help us to provide these quality services to our students throughout the school year.





Cuaresma and Semana Santa

Cuaresma (Lent) and Holy Week (Semana Santa) are very special times in Guatemala. The 40 days of Lent are usually observed with a ViaCruis (Stations of the Cross) done every Friday throughout different neighbourhoods of the City. One of the oldest cities in Guatemala, Antigua, has its own Lenten processions and stations of the cross done every Friday, with lots of floats, like the one pictured above. The Lenten season culminates in Holy Week, a very special time for Guatemalans. Most children are off from school and most businesses close on Holy Thursday, while everything is closed on Good Friday, when most neighborhoods close their streets and create elaborate and beautiful 'alfombras' (or rugs) and altars made of colored sand, sawdust, pine needles, flowers and other different natural materials. There are numerous processions throughout the day on Good Friday, a beautiful and timeless tradition of the Guatemalan people to commemorate the death and Resurrection of Jesus.



This is the way how people decorated the altars in Guatemala by hands for a viacrucis (Stations of the Cross) on one of the Fridays during Lent.

This is one of the elaborate “alfombras” that was created by our neighbors.



Here is another beautiful “alfombra” that some of the members of the program created.



Above is a photo of members of Caminando Por La Paz participating in the (viacrisis). This meeting is in the Caminando Por La paz location. They have a viacrisis every Friday during Lent.

The photo below includes one of the students from the program re-enacting one of the Stations of the Cross with her school San Rafael Archangel.



Cross Catholic



Above is a photo of the Holy Hour sharing with people from the community and the representative person of Cross Catholic in Central America. Cross Catholic is an organization that provides funds to support many programs around the world, including Caminando Por la Paz. Cross Catholic supports our program to provide lunch Monday through Thursday to the children who come for tutoring every week. They also support a number of children with educational scholarships for school. In total, they are supporting about 50 students.

A representative from Cross Catholic visits the program two times a year and in order to see how it project is going and developing within the community.

If you wish to find out more information about Cross Catholic and the work they are doing to help our program as well as others around the world go to crosscatholic.org.



The program held a special holy hour with students who are receiving aid from Cross Catholic as well as other students who attend tutoring.

Cross Catholic also did some interviews with the students during their tutoring time.





Coffee Project Update

Over the last two months, we have been working on importing 5,000 pounds of the 2016 Family Coffee harvest.

This coffee was provided by 11 different families who are working very hard to improve the quality of their product.

In order to have a better assistance and safety in the coffee exportation/importation process, we changed to a company that has a direct connection between USA and Honduras. INAGINSA Beneficio is now milling and shipping this coffee (always in Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras) directly to the City of Houston, TX.

The new harvest of coffee is coming soon and we continue working in the coffee sales and trying to get open the market to sell more coffee.

If you are interested in buying coffee or know someone places such markets, fairs, churches, coffee shops, etc that would be interested in selling our coffee, please let us know. Any connection will be a big help. Please contact us at: m.k.hast@gmail.com, mtorresa50@yahoo.com, rocovey@yahoo.com.

We recently added Dark Roast to the offerings of our Family Coffee.

The purchase of coffee is also available at: www.familycoffee.org.



Meditation

“invites us to open our minds and our hearts to the gift of the Holy Spirit . . . the first and principle gift that He has obtained with His Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven.” In the Gospel, Jesus says to His disciples, “If you love me, keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Paraclete to be with you always.” These words, the Pope said, “remind us above all that love for a person, and also for the Lord, is shown not with words but with facts.” The command to keep and observe the commandments must likewise be understood in such a way that they affect our whole life. In fact, the Pope said, “being Christians does not primarily mean pertaining to a certain culture or adhering to a certain doctrine, but rather, joining one’s very life, in every aspect, to the person of Jesus, and, through Him, to the Father.” It is precisely for this reason that Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit: it is through the gift of the Spirit, “the love which unites the Father and the Son, and proceeds from them,” that we are able to live the very life of Jesus.

But “the Holy Spirit also exercises a function of teaching and memory.” Pope Francis explained that the Holy Spirit does not bring a teaching different from that of Jesus, but helps make Jesus’ teaching present and active in our lives.

The Holy Father concluded his remarks with the prayer that the Blessed Virgin Mary “might obtain for us the grace of being strongly animated by the Holy Spirit, that we might bear witness to Christ with evangelical frankness, and open ourselves more and more to the fullness of His love.”

This reflection from Pope Francis gives us an opportunity to think about how not only the resurrection of Jesus but also the presence of the Holy Spirit transform our lives and how these gifts from God allow us to “open ourselves more and more to the fullness of His love and in turn share this love with the world.

Here are some questions to think about and meditate on:

Where do you find the Holy Spirit bringing the teaching of Jesus’ and making it active in your life?

How do you feel that the gift of the Lord’s resurrection manifests itself in your life?

How does the Holy Spirit help you to open yourself to the fullness of God’s love and allow you to share this love with the world?

Program needs

While we have great hope that in time our coffee project will become the backbone of our economic continuance, we still have several needs in order to provide the education assistance necessary to help the students in our program.

Some of our ongoing needs are:

- Computers (Laptops)
- Benches and tables
- School supplies
- Backpacks
- Teacher Training (We have asked a friend in the US to come and provide for this need and hope it may happen in the next few months.) The idea is to help the neighborhood women, mothers of some of our students, obtain a better idea of what is needed in teaching.

We would also like to provide a cultural/spiritual enrichment trip for our neighbors.

****At present one of our greatest needs is for help in the United States to find market outlets for our Family Coffee.****

(See both www.familycoffee.org and www.caminandogua.org for information about our coffee project.)

We also want to thank all those who have helped in the past, including visitors, who have shared their expertise to our advantage.

Please contact us if you are interested in visiting, because aside from material needs, we can always use the supportive presence and talents of people like YOU!

Remember we are only able to continue our projects because of your generous contributions, prayers, and personal acts of support to our program.



Order Form

- I am currently unable to provide financial assistance. However I will keep the program in my prayers and wish to receive your periodic newsletters.
- I am forwarding my check for \$ _____ to support the work of Caminando Por La Paz.
- I am forwarding my check in the amount of \$50.00 to support the education of one child for a month.
- I wish to pledge \$50.00 per month to support the education of one child. I will receive periodic information from the child.
- I am forwarding my check in the amount of \$500.00 to support the education of one child for a year. I will receive periodic information from the child.

You may forward your **tax deductible** check to:

Caminando Por La Paz
Post Office Box 1583
New Caney, Texas 77357

You may also use the pay pal button on our website at Caminandogua.org.



Family Coffee is the “Coffee with a Cause.”

Actually we have two causes served by Family Coffee:

- (1) The education project at Caminando Por La Paz - Guatemala and
- (2) The coffee producers in Honduras and their plans to improve production.

Coffee Price: \$12.00 per pound or 3+ pounds \$10.00 per pound

For shipping price on orders greater than three pounds please contact us for pricing at: rocovey@yahoo.com or missiongua@gmail.com

Order Format

- () I wish to purchase one pound of family coffee for \$12.00 plus \$6.00 shipping order total is: \$18.00
- () I wish to purchase two pounds of family coffee for \$24 plus \$13.00 shipping: order total is: \$37.00
- () I wish to purchase three pounds of family coffee for \$34 plus \$13.00 shipping order total is: \$47.00

Mail order form and your check to:

Caminando Por La Paz
Post Office Box 1382
New Caney, Texas 77357

Don't forget you can easily order coffee online at www.familycoffee.org!

