

CAMINANDO POR LA PAZ GUATEMALA

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Recent Program Activities

The program is continuing to grow, with more students, teachers, and activities.

Mission Immersion 2.0

Another US Mission group visited the program this year.

New Blessings

There were 2 exciting new blessings that occurred in the last few months.

Coffee Update

Update about our coffee sales, production and new markets.

Meditation

Reflecting on how we can make a big difference in small ways.

Program Needs

We are always in need of support in many forms.

Guest Editor

A **BIG** thank you to Mario Torres for being guest Editor this edition!



Recent Program Activities.

These are some activities that have taken place in the program between the months of May-August 2016.

This picture show some children getting ready to eat their meal a few minutes before the tutoring start.





Teachers and children are praying and asking to God to bless the food and all the activities that they have and need to do, including school work.



These two photos show that children come to the program for tutoring but they also learn discipline and they are taking responsibility to care for the house and space



they use for tutoring. For example, the photo to the left is a calendar with the date, name, time and specific chore each student needs to complete so they can clean the tutoring clean for themselves.

Also, during the tutoring the students take some time to play and have a fun moments in group and share this time with each other and the teachers.



The photo to the right shows a meeting for the teachers, who have the responsibility to guide the kids in the best way. They discuss how to best help the students in their studies and beyond.



The program has a small computer room. They use it for doing homework that schools ask for. 98% of the children who come for tutoring to the Program have no internet signal in their homes. Computers in the program fortunately have internet signal and kids can do homework for

free. Many times, schools/teachers ask students to do homework provided from internet or scientific books but these activities have an economic cost. So this can be a problem for them but when they come to the program they are able to do some of this homework. In addition, to to students, we also have some teachers who are going back to school to continue their education and the computers help them greatly as well.

As we explained in the previous E-News, Cross Catholic is an organization in Miami, Florida that is helping the program with food and some school scholarships every year. They ask for bi-annual reports to show how and for whom the money was used for that time period and these are photos of just a few of the kids and families who have benefited in the current year.



These two photos show one of the young men and his family who have benefited from the program with a scholarship and food in the form of lunch during tutoring.



The program likes to take children, their families, and other members of the community of spiritual trips to different places in Guatemala. This is photo taken from a recent trip to Mayan Ruins. The group is sitting in a ball court of the Ruins, listening to a tour guide.

This is a photo of Carlos leading a Holy Hour with Bible verses and discussion of the meaning with members of the group during the trip to the Mayan Ruins.





Mission Immersion 2.0

The program has the opportunity for mission groups to visit and learn about the work that is done. This year the program received a Mission group from Maryknoll who came for a day to experience the tutoring and learn about the neighbourhood where the program is located. The top photo is from the Holy Hour at the chapel in the third floor in the program.



This photo is in the “barrancas” (ravines) where some of the poorest Guatemalans live. We often take Mission groups through the community to see where our children live.



Sometimes the Chapel room is used for meetings, reflections and welcomes for people visiting the program.

This photo shows members of the group asking children questions about their own lives and how or why they like the program as well as helping them with school work.



One of the interesting things we do with groups is walking around of the community showing them where and in what condition the program members are living.

New Blessings

In the last couple months two great Blessings have come into the lives of program members.

On May 23, 2016 Mario and Megan's daughter, Isabel was born. She brings great joy into the lives of all who meet her.



On August 2016 Karla and Carlos got married. They both are living and working in the program.



Coffee Project Update

Reported by Ron Covey in August

Coffee sales are down. We have had no sales at all in the month of July.

I have given out sample pounds, which we now use to promote the Weebly site and send out recruiting e-mails on an occasional basis. We are permitted 5 mailings a month of up to 500 receiving each mailing.

Sister Sandra and I have developed a list of places we hope to utilize as sales outlets. Our list has led to several polite refusals.

Our best prospect at this point is the Catholic Charismatic Center. We just received permission to set up a table and sell during or after masses, it now appears that our first effort will be Sandy and I selling after the Spanish mass Wednesday noon.

We are reaching out to a few friends to have help and cover more masses.

We also have been approved to sell at the Christmas Fest at the Presbyterian Church on 7 December.

I am reaching out to a friend with writing skills to perhaps collaborate on an e-book about coffee that could use to refer to our Coffee sales and her business.

I have sent recent e-mails to people who have sold for us in the past to see if I could line up anything new with them.

There is very little outstanding coffee on consignment. \$100 with the Maryknoll House in Chicago and the man in Kerrville does a pay as he goes and he currently has 100 pounds.

10 pounds were given to immersion mission members who visited Caminando this year.

We hold a small supply in Guatemala mostly just for use at the program house.

**** As an additional note, Mario and Megan have been working with a local Roaster in North Carolina, who is willing to roast and package some Family Coffee for the program, so we will be able to fill orders for coffee from North Carolina, as well as Texas. Megan and Mario are also seeking out local parishes and groups who would be interested in buying as well as selling Family Coffee.*

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

Please contact us if you are interested in buying or selling coffee at: m.k.hast@gmail.com, mtorresa50@yahoo.com, rocovey@yahoo.com

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

Meditation

WRITTEN *by* MARC CHERNOFF

Every Sunday morning I take a light jog around a park near my home. There's a lake located in one corner of the park. Each time I jog by this lake, I see the same elderly woman sitting at the water's edge with a small metal cage sitting beside her.

This past Sunday my curiosity got the best of me, so I stopped jogging and walked over to her. As I got closer, I realized that the metal cage was in fact a small trap. There were three turtles, unharmed, slowly walking around the base of the trap. She had a fourth turtle in her lap that she was carefully scrubbing with a spongy brush.

"Hello," I said. "I see you here every Sunday morning. If you don't mind my nosiness, I'd love to know what you're doing with these turtles."

She smiled. "I'm cleaning off their shells," she replied. "Anything on a turtle's shell, like algae or scum, reduces the turtle's ability to absorb heat and impedes its ability to swim. It can also corrode and weaken the shell over time."

"Wow! That's really nice of you!" I exclaimed.

She went on: "I spend a couple of hours each Sunday morning, relaxing by this lake and helping these little guys out. It's my own strange way of making a difference."

"But don't most freshwater turtles live their whole lives with algae and scum hanging from their shells?" I asked.

"Yep, sadly, they do," she replied.

I scratched my head. "Well then, don't you think your time could be better spent? I mean, I think your efforts are kind and all, but there are fresh water turtles living in lakes all around the world. And 99% of these turtles don't have kind people like you to help them clean off their shells. So, no offense... but how exactly are your localized efforts here truly making a difference?"

The woman giggled aloud. She then looked down at the turtle in her lap, scrubbed off the last piece of algae from its shell, and said, "Sweetie, if this little guy could talk, he'd tell you I just made all the difference in the world."

This reading brings to mind the idea that though small and seemingly insignificant, these little turtles are given a small amount of care and attention which ultimately will make a huge difference in their lives. How can we draw from this reading in our own lives? When in your life have you been presented with seemingly insignificant events or moments that when given the proper care and attention became something great and significant or really made a difference? How can we make a difference in seemingly small and insignificant ways?

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 m 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!