

CAMINANDO POR LA PAZ GUATEMALA

Web: www.caminandogua.org | Editor: Megan Hast, m.k.hast@gmail.com



Graduates 2016

A number of students graduate this year.

Day of Spirituality

A group of students and their families visited Iximche.

House/Community Events

Celebrating Dia del Nino/a and other events

Memorial Mass

Mass celebrating founder Father Tom Goekler

Meditation

Advent/Preparation Meditation

Program Needs

We are always in need of support in many forms.

Coffee Update

Graduates 2016



As we move into 2017, Caminando Por la Paz has much to be grateful for, not the least of which were a number of students who graduated from their respective schools. We had some graduate from elementary school, some from middle grades and some from High School.



Astrid Ibarra and her mom. Astrid has been part of the program Caminando Por la paz about of four years and she graduated from high school this passed year and her mom Hilda is helping with tutoring in the program too.

To the right is a photo of the public school administration giving the certificates to one of the graduating students from the year 2016.



To the left is another one of our students, who has received a scholarship, Bryan, carrying the Guatemala flag in the graduation ceremony, which is an honor reserved for students with the highest grades.

This is the other student, who graduated from high school, Mirna Muralles, with her family and the school director.



Day of Spirituality



The program participated in a day of spirituality at Iximche. The above photo shows the group taking some time out of their experience to pray together.



The following photos are some of the youngest group members participating in the spiritual readings. The program strives to include all, even the youngest in these spiritual activities because it allows them a valuable experience and hearing the youngest voices pray together enhances the spirituality of all.





Guatemala has a multicultural population in different parts around the country. There are a 23 distinct languages and cultural groups and each performs many different rituals and ceremonies.

The above photo shows a mayan ceremony being performed in Iximche.

Some students, families, tutors from the program and other community members had the opportunity to experienced this side of the Guatemalan culture and enriched their knowledge and understanding of this valuable part of Guatemala and enhance their own spirituality.

House/Community Events



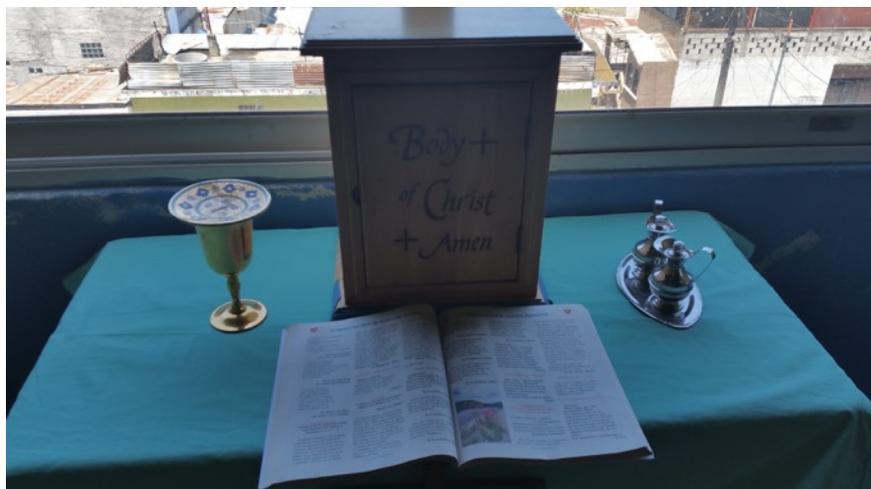
Matt is a Missionary Of Maryknoll who every year comes to the program with a USA mission group to share with the program and each other in the community.

In this photo, the tutor and children are saying the prayer before eating their lunch. The program has a desire to support children in their educational as well as spiritual growth.



In the photo to the left, we have one of the tutors talking with the students who were participating in the “movie in our community” project and passing out small gifts for “Children’s Day.”

Memorial Mass



Every November the 25th we celebrated a mass in honour to Father Tom how passed away at that date.



Here is Rev. Father Spain, Maryknoll missionary, celebrating mass with the community at the house where the program is in Guatemala.

At the right is different community members, including children from tutoring participating at the Father Tom's memorial Mass.



Meditation

This a meditation by Rev. Jackson Henry.

This set of brief meditations and scripture may be used in lighting the candles of the Advent wreath in worship at church or home. Each meditation uses one of the 2016 lectionary readings for that day. The readings are divided into sections that can be assigned to various persons participating, including children. Choose from among the hymn options to conclude each meditation. Permission is granted to download, copy, adapt, edit, and reprint for home or local church worship with the inclusion of the copyright citation on each copy.



Advent. Arrival. Appearance. Return. With Christmas, hope, anticipation, joy, and wholeness find their place in the coming of Jesus. It is in this time of arrival that we encounter a reading from the Book of Isaiah on Christmas Eve.

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

How perfect it is that God would send a child to lead us. The voice of God was heard in the cries of a baby, and that sound reminds us that God cared for us enough to be with us, to save us from the powers of death and destruction, and end our journey in darkness. We light this candle knowing that Jesus is born, and Love has come to earth.

Reflection

With all the images and stories of war, terror and turmoil we see everyday in the news, it is difficult to think about how God has sent us a child to bring Peace and Love to the earth.

- In lighting the candles of Advent in preparation for the coming of the Lord into the world to bring us Peace and Love comes Hope for the future.
- What are your hopes for the future? How can we prepare our hearts and minds to accept the Peace and Love the Lord brings?
- How can we share this Peace and Love with others in our lives, given all the war, terror and turmoil we encounter?

Program needs

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!

Coffee Update

From Ron Covey

We need to improve the sales rate of our coffee if we are to continue the work of Caminando Por La Paz - Guatemala.

Some recent efforts include the addition of colorful, Guatemalan typical artisan gift bags for use with our coffee. We are currently selling the bags for \$3.00 on our website at: <https://www.familycoffee.org>. If the bags prove to be a good seller we will work with a Maryknoll sister in San Marcos to add additional artisan articles to our sales offerings.

Postage continues to be a big problem for our efforts. We are unable to reduce the cost of shipping via either USPS, UPS or others. This puts us up against such giant companies as Amazon, which has an ability to leverage price with shipping companies. This is regrettable and undoubtedly has a negative effect on our sales efforts.

To counter the effect of high shipping cost we are hopeful of improving our ability to offer the coffee locally. To date the best movement toward this effort has been sales opportunities in the Albany, New York, Sea Crest, New Jersey and Kerrville, Texas where friends and especially Maryknoll affiliates are selling our family coffee at local churches. We are very hopeful that other groups will choose to do the same. Any interested parties should contact either Ron Covey at:

rocovey@yahoo.com or Mario Torres at: mtorresa50@yahoo.com or Megan Hast at: m.k.hast@gmail.com

We have been offering a dark roast of our coffee in both whole bean and ground versions. The feedback concerning this coffee is that it needs to be a bit darker, therefore we are working with the roaster (Copan Trade in Tomball Texas) to increase the roasting time.

Suggestions concerning ways to improve our sales effort will be greatly appreciated.



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!