

LATEST ACTIVITIES AT CAMINANDO POR LA PAZ

NOVEMBER 2020

Different activities, same mission

We have reached november and many things have happened at Caminando por la Paz- Guatemala

YOU WILL SEE HERE:

- ◆ Helping our friend Violeta with her house
- ◆ A living room for the mission's house
- ◆ Food donation for the community of "Tierra Nueva".
- ◆ Father Tom: 10 years anniversary
- ◆ Dinner with the board member



Helping our friend Violeta with her house



THIS IS HOW THE HOUSE LOOKED BEFORE THE CONCRET BASE.

Violeta was having difficulties with her house, the land on which it was built was slowly crumbling and the recent rains were suffocating a landslide which made it dangerous to continue living there. That is why the administration of the program decided to build a concret base and change the roof which it was pretty old.



This is now how the house looks like. The new concrete base was build bigger then the old one in order to have a larger house.

A “sitting room” for the house of Caminando por la Paz

Several years ago the member of the house were talking about to have a place in the house just to get together, sit and watch tv, specially for the kids that we have living in our house and this year finally it was possible.

Here are some pictures of our new place at our house.



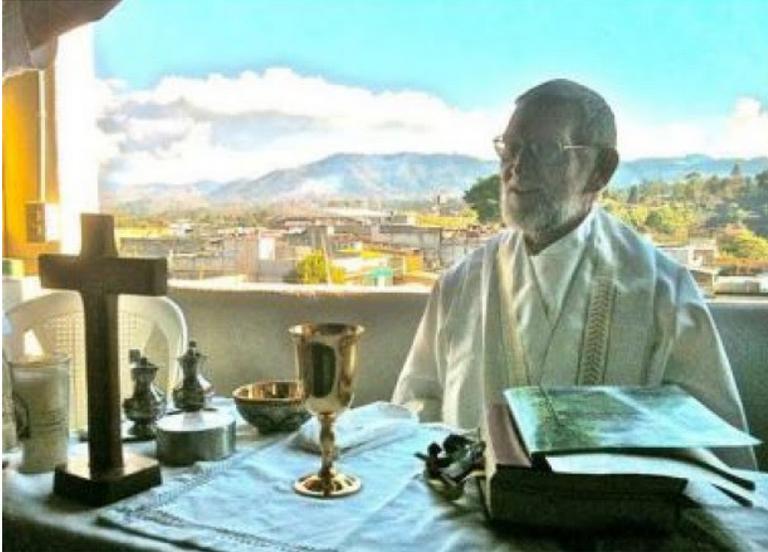
Food donation for Tierra Nueva community

Tierra Nueva is a small community that is been struggling with several problems at the same time due to the Covid-19. Some of the neighbors got organize to solve the food problem but they were scammed by a person who had promised them to bring food for a minimal amount of money. The Chapter of Maryknoll affiliates agreed to raise money between all the members to help the people of this community. Caminando por la Paz offered to help with 100 pounds of beans, 200 pounds of rice and some packages of cereal. When we leave our donation in the parish that it was in charge of the donations delivering the priest told us that they were looking for transport to bring all the food donation, so Carlos, our president, immediately offered his help to transport the food in the Pick-up of the program and that was how Caminando por la Paz donated food and visited this community.



Remembering Fr. Tom at the 10th year anniversary

By Isis Miranda



“My students from Chamelecón are better than yours,” Father Thomas told the director of Colegio Santo Tomas, an upper-class educational center, located in a privileged area of San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Actually it was not the first time that I heard Father say that, it was something like his favorite phrase whenever he was with people of high economic rank, and each time he did it my mind would stop and wander away not understanding the real reasons for what he was saying.

I couldn't stop feeling a little embarrassed thinking that my grades were terrible, our vocabulary and behavior were not always the best, and what to say about our spirituality, we were like robots repeating each phrase at Mass without really knowing the meaning of each sentence. I wondered why Father Thomas dared to say so confidently that we students from an underserved sector were better than those students who arrived every day in luxury vans, wearing impeccable uniforms and dragging expensive backpacks.

One day, during my first trip to Guatemala, Father took us to visit a man, apparently he was a businessman, and he told him “This is Isis Miranda, she is my director of the scholarship program in Honduras”. I was perplexed with that presentation because I was not the director of anything, it took me a few seconds to greet this man who addressed me very happy and impressed. I was also surprised, because I took care of the files of the scholarship students of the program, and, although it was sometimes hard work and a tedious task, I felt that I was not even close to being the director of any area of the program. Anyway, I decided to accept that "promotion" in silence.

Father continued talking with that man and I heard his favorite phrase about us again: "My students are the best". Of course, after I found out that "I was the director of the scholarship department" I was alert and able to bring my mind back to allow me to hear the explanation of that phrase. The man smiled and said "Really Father?" and the father with his shining blue eyes and his raised index finger said "exactly! the best ones", and you know why? Because they live in the midst of violence on the streets, they suffer violence in their homes, they work, at their young age they take care of their younger siblings, they suffer contempt and stigmatization for being from a poor and violent neighborhood, and in the middle of everything they strive to fulfill their duties and pass their school year. Do you understand now what the point is? And he continued with a softer expression on his face and a low tone of voice: "the young people of the upper class just have to study."

Moved and identified with that explanation, from the depths of my mind and my heart, in silence, I promised father Tom, right there, that I would work with more dedication and put my heart on the program.

In my early 20s my understanding and knowledge of politics, sociology, religion and economics were very limited. I had grown up with a grandfather who liked to discuss these issues in an arrogant way, pretending that he knew everything; for that reason I was not interested in learning about it, and it was also the same reason why in the early years I did not understand or like the homilies of Father Thomas. He was always talking about one of those topics or all at once and it almost always seemed like he wanted to grab a whip and punish us at every Mass. Now I laugh every time I remember.

It was through my daily experiences in the program that my attitude changed and I learned to listen with my heart, and to look "from the eyes of God" as Father Thomas used to say.

Seeing him every morning with his cup of coffee and his tired face, helping us, and teaching us the administration and planning of activities, led me to admire him more every day and to understand his ministry.

He was the only priest in Chamelecón who decided to live in a simple house, just two blocks from the embankment of the mighty River, half a block from the house of one of the most recognized murderers. It was the area where poverty and violence manifested crudely. His faith was unshakable. During an interview with a New York journalist, she asked him: "Why have you decided to live here and not in a quieter and safer area? And he replied "because if Jesus Christ came today he would decide the same, his purpose and his gospel was dedicated to the poor, to those who have no voice."

Father Thomas marked the lives of many people. Personally, he traced a purpose in my life, I learned to channel my childhood and adolescence traumas and turn them into weapons of courage to work with faith and enthusiasm for the community.

Thank you for so much Father Thomas. A hug to the sky.

A special dinner with the most loyal board members



No one in the whole world was prepared to face a pandemic and we are not the exception. As many organization we didnt know what to do at the beggining of this situa-tion, then suddenly our program received the opportunity of bles-sing with food not only to our pro-gram’s people but many other fa-milies from several communities, it was a lot of work to prepared all the food package for all this people but our team was here with all ent-husiasm, risking their health to ser-ve others.

This is the people that we need in the program. People who work with faith, love, people who works selflessly.

Thank you for your dedication to Caminando por la paz. God bless your life



“THE MIRACLE IS
NOT THAT WE DO
THIS WORK, BUT
THAT WE ARE
HAPPY TO DO IT.”

-MOTHER THERESA

Our soccer team with new uniform

The soccer team of Caminando por la Paz has a new uniform and the young members are really enjoying it.

After several month of suspended activities because the Covid-19 the soccer league restart the activities again, which is wonderful for our players because if their favorite hobby for must of them. Playing soccer help them to clear their minds and keep them off from drugs at least for a couple hours. And that is the principal reason because we support them.

This year it's been pretty sad for us not only because of covid-19 but because we lost

the goalkeeper, he died suddenly from a brain tumor and we didn't have the chance of giving him a good funeral because of the pandemic and the luckdown. Rest in peace Allan.

Another situation was the murder of 3 young boys las december 31th, when we were about to receive the new year. They were players for other soccer team from our community, in general-good boys, two of them graduated from highschool and they were ready to start college.

So Caminando por la Paz decide to start with new

energies and new uniforms to give to the young boys a reason to smile and remove the bad taste of those latest events. Please pray for our players.

If you would like to support the team these are some of their needs:

- *Soccer shoes
- *Soccer socks
- *Balls N.5
- *Soccer gloves for the goalkeeper
- *A christmas dinner

“INCLUYA AQUÍ UNA FRASE O UNA CITA DEL ARTÍCULO PARA CAPTAR LA ATENCIÓN DEL LECTOR”.



A special thank to all of our sponsors for your love for our program. We hope you had a great “Thanksgiving” celebration.

