



Dear Friends,

I received the call on Feb. 6th and a week later I was on a flight from Guatemala City to Bismarck, ND. It was Valentine's Day. My mother had just been diagnosed with ovarian cancer and after a week of frantic 'getting things in place' I left Santiago Ixcán to be with her in North Dakota. What I didn't know then is that a few months later (on April 22nd) I would be the patient recovering from an emergency appendectomy. As it turned out leaving Guatemala when I did might have saved my life. I'm not sure what would have happened had my appendix ruptured while I was still in my remote jungle home. God knew.



Javier

I left Santiago Ixcán mission in good hands. Javier Gonzalez, a reliable friend, farmer, catechist, husband to Rosa and father of six, has been working with me for years in helping with the practicalities of maintaining the mission and implementing our outreach ministry. Actually, he's been so responsible, trustworthy and wise that Ixcán Ministries hired him two years ago to be our on-site consultant and helper- basically my right hand. He's been a God send. And I say this from my heart that Javier Gonzalez is my brother.

As the mission has evolved over the years I've worked closely with the people and whenever possible formed leadership committees to help run the things that Ixcán Ministries has been involved in... like in the early years in building the Jr. High School, to our present day scholarship program and women's microbusiness. In this way the people take ownership and are empowered to help themselves with my input and varying degrees of oversight. The long-term goal is that the people do the work without me. Like Javier is doing now.

In addition to the day to day 'things' that happen in the ministry like helping a family get their sick child to the doctor or simply listening to someone's latest dilemma over a cup of coffee we have some specific ongoing outreach cases that need our intervention... like single mother Cristina with her five young children, or teenage Petrona's visits to the doctor for anemia, or administrating the building of a house for an elderly poor widow.

Or 3 year old Roselia's cancer treatment in Guatemala City. If you remember Roselia's story, her parents Elias and Catarina came to me for financial help in getting then 2 year old Roselia to the children's cancer hospital in Guatemala City. She had a malignant tumor behind her right eye. (The tumor was removed and she lost the eye.) Thus began the long subsequent chemotherapy treatments requiring many trips from the Ixcán to the Capital 12 hours away. Actually, she and her mom lived mostly in Guatemala City for a year. They tell me that of the four children who were treated at the same time with Roselia – she is the only one remaining. She's a fighter and a survivor.

Javier manages all of these outreach cases in addition to the ongoing issues that arise for which he consults with me by telephone. He is doing a good job.

I am waiting to heal up and am working on things that I can from home like development of our website and women's Ixcán Creations microbusiness. I look forward to returning to Guatemala as soon as I heal and depending on my mother's progress. I am happy to report that she-Joell- is doing very well in her cancer treatment.



Roselia and her family

Thank you so much for your prayers.

We continue to hold you and yours in ours. Thank you for your support of Ixcán Ministries. May God bless you!

Sincerely,

Kathy Snider

Ixcán Ministries would like to thank the generosity of Spirit of Life Catholic Church Mandan, ND for sharing their gifts of staff talent, time and printing expenses of the newsletters.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Ixcán Ministries provides a prayerful, pastoral presence through lay missionaries living in solidarity with the poor of the remote Ixcán jungle of Guatemala to learn from as well as to assist both spiritually and materially the people with whom life and ministry are shared. The organization strives to be a bridge between two cultures and nations allowing for the exchange of varying gifts between the rich and poor for the ultimate purpose of empowerment and transformation of lives and society.

Ixcán Ministries is a 501(c) 3 organization. Your contributions are tax deductible. You may contact us at:

Ixcán Ministries
PO Box 51
Mandan, ND 58554

Purchase Ixcán Creations products at:
Susie Q's 411 W. Main Mandan, ND
or on our webpage
ixcanministries.org

ixcan_ministries@yahoo.com
Marlane Peterson
(701) 663-3798