

***Justice = The quality of being fair in our relationships with God, others and the earth***

Dear Friends,

I am thinking of a child in these days of Lent. Her name is Glendy. She is waif-like, seven years old and lives in Santiago Ixcán. I think she has suffered in her young age more than I have in my entire fifty-eight years.

Glendy's biological father abandoned her, her twin sister, Petrona, older sister, Chavela, baby sister, Chicalinda and little brother, Jonny. Her mother is Cristina.

He left the family suddenly one day without warning. He left for a "better" life, easier, with a younger woman. Cristina was forced to carry the care of their five children alone. He also left her in debt incurred with the bank that she had to repay or lose her home and land. In Guatemala, he gets away with all of this without legal consequences.

I think Glendy would say, "Life isn't fair." And she is right.

We have walked with Glendy and her family since he left. Cristina is a hard worker. The children are so young. We've made sure that they have food to eat and have gone to school. That is only fair.

I think when justice is practiced resurrection happens.

To add to her hard life, Glendy had a foot problem. It was a problem that medicine, so hard to come by these days in Guatemala, couldn't fix. She had a mass growing between her big and adjacent toe on her left foot. This mass continued to get bigger. Glendy began to cry and complain when she had to put on shoes, and when she walked.



Even so, she walked the mile to come to me. She showed me her foot. I felt powerless. I knew the 'fix' would require surgery and surgeons are far away and expensive- not accessible to the poor.

Then I learned of Partner for Surgery, an organization based out of the US that coordinates patients from the Ixcán with short term mission surgical teams from the U.S. in Antigua Guatemala. I connected Partners with Cristina for Glendy. Ixcán Ministries gave Cristina the required quota of money for transportation and the surgery would be free!

Health care for Glendy! Justice!

Almost... Glendy and Cristina walked hand in hand down the dusty street of Playa Grande in mid-afternoon. They planned to take the 4 a.m. shuttle with Partners for Surgery the next day. Then the unthinkable

happened...an unknown man and woman approached them, grabbed her hands, and jerked her woven purse from around her shoulders and ran with most of the money for the surgery!

Cristina crumbled and sobbed. She went to the police who couldn't do anything. She gave up.

But her family didn't.

Her extended family in Santiago Ixcán and Guatemala City rallied. They borrowed the amount of money that was robbed and got it to her! Glendy and Crisitina in the early hours the next morning were on their way to Antigua!

Those missionary doctors, nurses, and anesthesiologists did the surgery.

Glendy is back in Santiago Ixcán recovering at this writing. In the face of all that resistance...Resurrection.



I am trying to keep my eyes open these days of Lent; the liturgical season of 40 days in the Catholic world with a focus on prayer, alms giving, fasting and helping the poor. I don't know when another Glendy will appear, look at me with big brown eyes and point to a need or a problem.

Catholic, Christian social teaching states that ALL human beings have a right to life from conception to death. That right includes a worthy standard of living including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, basic education, employment, rest and necessary social services.

Scripture sums it up this way, "He has told you what is good; and what the Lord requires of you but to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. – Micah 6:8.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of Ixcán Ministries! We could not do what we do without you!

Know you and yours are in our prayers. May your Lent and Easter be meaningful, filled with the hope and acts of Resurrection!

Sincerely,

Kathy Snider



## Mission Update:

Kathy spent the month of March in Washington State accompanying a friend who was sick and visiting others in Forks and Seattle. She will be on a personal retreat during the month of April at the Monastery of Bethlehem in Livingston Manor, New York. She plans to return to Guatemala in early June.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Ixcán Ministries is a Christian lay mission serving as a ministry of presence with the Maya people in the Ixcán jungle of Guatemala. We act as a bridge between cultures for the exchange of gifts to transform lives and society.

Ixcán Ministries is a 501(c) 3 organization. Your contributions are tax deductible.

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