

Dear Friends,

I am thinking about water. In the United States potable water flows with just a twist of the hand and wrist from spickets, faucets and hoses. Dishes are cleaned, clothes are laundered, grass and flowers are refreshed, bodies are cleansed, thirst is quenched – due to precious water that comes instantly and without much effort...here.

In Guatemala, that isn't the case.

Some women in Santiago Ixcán will walk miles to a river or an underground well in order to wash clothes by hand. Even worse, in the dry season during the months of March, April, and May, with temperatures soaring in the humid 90's and 100's; the usual daily rainstorms stop. Then, the streams shrink and no longer flow, and the wells dry up. For some, it is difficult even to find a nearby source of drinking water and many make multiple trips on foot, with filled tinajas (large plastic containers) expertly balanced on their heads, as they trek miles to and from the few underground wells with clean water.

This makes me think about a young woman in our village, 24-year old Dilma Morales, mother of two, married to Enrique, who is a member of our Ixcán Creations microbusiness project. Over the years, Dilma has perfected her craft and is one of our most gifted jewelers.

In North Dakota, a group of dedicated women volunteers, organizes, inventories and markets Dilma's and 30 other jewelers' and 10 weavers' products here in the U.S. They work hard and their gratuitous service empowers our Guatemalan sisters to earn needed money. All the proceeds go directly to the women artisans and makes a real difference in their lives.

Dilma recently wrote a letter to them. This is what she said:

Hello Sisters,

I send a cordial greeting hoping that this finds you and your family in good health.

For my part, I appreciate everything that you do for all of us. I know that it is a great work, a great effort and, in truth, I don't have the words in order to thank you.



What you all do is a great help for us. Especially for me, because it is helping so much.

Thanks be to God with the money that you have sent me (from her earnings), I have purchased a 58 gallon barrel to store rain water, a hand mill, pots and pans, and a big 290 gallon plastic tank also to store water that will last during the dry season when we can't find potable water.

From my heart I thank you all, and may God bless you today, tomorrow and always.

Sincerely: Dilma Nohemi Morales Villatoro.

It is impressive that jade earrings, seed necklaces, and beaded Christmas ornaments were transformed into containers that will hold 348 gallons of water! Due to her jewelry- making, Dilma no longer has to hike long distances for clean water! What a difference that makes for her and her family!

If you live in the Bismarck/Mandan area, I want to invite you or someone you may know, to consider becoming a part of this dynamic ministry of empowerment of women. We need help in doing inventory of product, set up and take down for sales, presence during sales, and marketing.

Also, product is available for sale at *Tienda Marleny* in Mandan, North Dakota. If you are interested please call Marlane Peterson (701-426-9276) or Mary Kay Tokach (701-226-4868) to set up a time to shop. (We do have items with red, white and blue colors just in time for the fourth of July!)

Thank you for your support of Ixcán Ministries. God is at work.

May you and yours enjoy these summer days. Know you are in prayers.

Sincerely,



Kathy Snider

Mission Update:

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that our dear friend and President of the Board, Marlane Peterson, has been diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer). This is a rare form of cancer and is advanced. We appreciate your prayers for Marlane and her family. If you would like to follow her journey please see caringbridge.org for on-going information.

Kathy is in the United States at this time. The mission in Guatemala goes forward with Javier Gonzalez and our leadership committees in place and working.

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.

Contact us or send a donation to:

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Purchase Ixcán Creations products at:
Tienda Marleny
(call 701-426-9276 to shop)