



Volume 19, Issue 5

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There is a time and a season for every purpose under the heavens. -Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Friends,

It is Fall and I am reminded by the leaves changing from their shades of greens into brilliant reds, oranges, and yellows - that life changes. And soon, my delight in all the Fall beauty will change into acceptance, as the leaves drop one by one, or fall in one quick swoop, and the colorfully clothed trees will stand naked.

Since May of this year, Ixcán Ministries has been in a season of change, when Marlane Peterson, our dear friend and president of the board of directors, was diagnosed with terminal bile duct cancer. This has been hard for us all, but we are adjusting and moving forward with Marlane's input and blessing.

Our present Board of Directors are all from the Bismarck/Mandan, North Dakota area.

They are:

President: Judy Van Lishout - Judy has previously served as treasurer and will now serve as president. She is the Office Manager at Point CPA for the past 10 years. Judy has a special connection with the women of the Ixcán. She shares, "I was blessed in the past by prayers of the women of Santiago Ixcán during a health crisis."

Vice President: Mary Kay Tokach - Mary Kay has previously served as a director, and will now serve as vice president. She also coordinates our Ixcán Creations micro-business inventory and sales. She worked as a biological agricultural research technician at Northern Great Plains Research Center for 36 years. Retired. She shares, "While visiting Guatemala in 2012, I experienced first-hand the beauty of the country and the people. Serving in this ministry has given me the opportunity to share the gift of friendship and faith here with the people of the Ixcán."

Treasurer: Ann Thorson - Ann is new to our board and will serve as treasurer. She is employed with the State of North Dakota for the past 18 years and has a degree in Business. Ann shares, "I value the deep dedication and spirituality of our board members."

Secretary: Sue Schnell - Sue has and will continue to serve as secretary. She has been a nurse for over 40 years. She shares, "The Ixcán women have been such an inspiration to me, and I feel a special kinship with them as we all pray for one another."



Director: Sharon Nelson – Sharon will serve as a director. She is an Assistant Professor of Nursing Practice for North Dakota State University in Bismarck. She shares, "I am happy to be able to work with the amazing and dedicated individuals here in Bismarck/Mandan and in Guatemala."

We also want to extend our deep gratitude to Laura Huber who served as our Vice President for years and decided to step down to have more personal and family time. Laura will remain as an advisor for our board.



Mission Update:

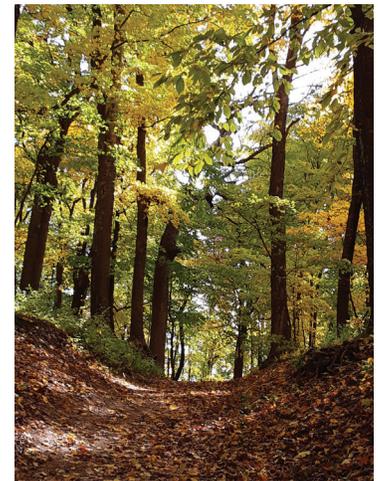
Javier Gonzalez continues working as on-site administrator of our outreach ministry in Santiago Ixcán. He just sent me this photo of 9 - month old, Toni, who will have upcoming cleft lip/ palate surgeries. Ixcán Ministries will partner with Toni's father to help pay for transportation costs to and from Antigua, where he will have the first of two surgeries through *Partner in Surgery*, a non-profit organization that helps people in rural isolated areas of Guatemala get medical and surgical care.



Kathy is finishing a one-month residency for writers at the Collegeville Institute on the campus of St. John's University in Collegeville, MN.

Marlane Peterson continues fighting the good fight. (See www.caring-bridge.org)

Thank you for your continued support of Ixcán Ministries as we trust God and move forward in walking with the people of the Ixcán. You remain in our prayers. Thank you for yours.



Sincerely,

Kathy Snider

A special thank-you to Spirit of Life Catholic Church in Mandan, ND for donating the printing of our newsletters.

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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