



Dear Friends,

Spring has finally sprung in North Dakota and the greening of grass and trees sings of hope and new life following a long winter. Seasons speak to me of change. Ixcán Ministries entered a new season of leadership in January 2000, when our president and co-founder, Marlane Peterson, died due to cancer. Our then treasurer assumed that role, but when she faced a serious illness, I was named board president in October 2021. Subsequently, the past seven months ushered in some new faces to serve on our U.S. board of directors.

Running a mission takes a village. I discovered that truth early on after arriving to Santiago Ixcán in 1998. Immersed in a totally different culture and way of life, I had to rely heavily upon the people for my basic welfare. I realized that a woman living alone in a remote area isn't the ideal mission model, but God called. Over the years, my solitary life with the people bonded us as nothing else could and they became my primary community.



*Cristina, Marlane and Carmen*

As the ministry grew and took shape, God brought two people, Javier Gonzalez and Carmen Jimenez, to help me run the mission. Javier is our on-site co-administrator who, along with me, coordinates and supervises our projects. In addition, he maintains the mission house and grounds. Carmen accompanies me in my pastoral work with various women's groups as well as leads and advises when needed. Both are faith-filled, exceedingly smart, honest and wise. Without formal degrees and titles, they excel in their areas of expertise. Javier has strong administrative gifts with an innate aptitude for numbers and accounting. Carmen is intuitive, and often acts as our eyes and ears. She doesn't read or write but understands and speaks three Mayan languages. They complement my gifts and limitations.

In addition to Javier and Carmen, we formed local leadership committees around our educational and some of our outreach projects. This shared leadership, with oversight from Javier and myself, has enabled our projects to function and flourish, even when I am not physically in the village.

In the United States, as good people decided to move on from our board, God brought others from both near and far to help. Our present U.S. board of directors are:

**Kathy Snider, President and Executive Director**

Founder of Ixcán Ministries, Guatemala, Central America  
Mandan North Dakota and Santiago Ixcán, Guatemala

**Mary Fristad, Vice-President**

Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology Director,  
Academic Affairs & Research Development,  
Nationwide Children's Hospital Behavioral Health  
Columbus Ohio

**Sue Schnell, Secretary**

Registered Nurse,  
St. Alexis Medical Center  
(44 years, retired)  
Mandan North Dakota

**Marilyn Stumpf, Treasurer**

Co-owner and Operator of Heating and Cooling Business  
(32 years, retired)  
Mandan North Dakota

**Teresa Samayoa, Director**

Program Administrator of Solidarity and  
Civil Participation for Integral Community Development  
Diocesan Social Pastoral Services, Caritas of Quiché,  
Guatemala, Central America (20 years, retired)  
Sacatepéquez Guatemala

**Kathy Mittlesteadt, Director**

Early Childhood and Elementary Special Education Teacher  
(18 years, including 13 abroad, retired)  
Bismarck North Dakota

**Laura Huber, Director**  
Certified Public Accountant  
Diocesan Finance Officer  
Bismarck North Dakota

**Margaret Rasmussen, Director**  
Catholic Educator/Aide Montessori School  
Mandan North Dakota

**Lorilee Petrangelo, Director**  
Executive Director, Founder of *Project Amistad*  
(Human service projects providing clean water and access to  
medical care in Guatemala City, Guatemala, Central America)  
St. Paul Minnesota

**Craig Keller, Ixcán Ministries Financial Advisor**  
Accountant, Northern Energy Corporation  
Bismarck North Dakota

I am deeply grateful for the many gifted people who have served on our board throughout the years and for our present leadership team both here and in Guatemala who will move us forward under God's direction and guidance.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of Ixcán Ministries. You are an integral part of our mission and community. We couldn't do what we do without you.

On behalf of the people of the Ixcán, I extend a sincere *"Muchísimas gracias! Y que Dios les bendiga!"*

Many thanks, and may God bless you!

We continue to pray for you and for peace in the world.

Sincerely,

*Kathy*  
Kathy Snider



*Carmen and Javier*

## **Mission Update:**

Our library and scholarship programs are serving many of our youth and children in the village. Our outreach ministry of the *Luchadora* women's group, the corn project, the latrine and *tinaco* (water holding barrel) projects continues to serve those most in need.

Kathy will return to Guatemala on June 30th. She has tentatively postponed surgery on her shoulder with torn rotator cuff.

### **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.

Our programs include- Scholarships, Community Library, Women's Micro-business, Medical, Housing, and Food Assistance, Spiritual and Pastoral Accompaniment, and Promotion of Peace and Justice.

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

Contact us or send a donation to:  
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