



**“I am the living bread that came down from heaven.” - John 6:51**

Dear Friends,

The ministry of presence takes many forms in our mission, including twice a month on Saturdays, when I join two or three other women to visit the sick from our Catholic community who are homebound. There is nothing that appears extra-ordinary about our visit. When I am there, I drive us in our 1984 red Toyota pickup truck throughout the village and then we walk the short or long distance from the road to the home. One of us will carry a moral (woven cloth purse) and within it will be a pyx, a small gold container in which the host, the consecrated bread of the Eucharist, is contained.

In the United States, the Catholic Bishops recently called a three-year Eucharistic Revival to inspire and prepare Catholics to be formed, healed, converted, united and sent out through a renewed encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist. I recently spoke to a friend who attended the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis where 50,000 Catholics gathered in Lucas Oil Stadium. She shared how the power of God moved through the speakers, the prayer, the worship and adoration of the Eucharistic Jesus. Healings, conversions, renewal happened. What a glorious event that must have been!

In contrast, I think of our humble home visits. I think of visiting Dona Suzanna, an elder, who can no longer walk the mile from her home to the church. She lives with her son and family up a steep hill whose path becomes slippery mud when the rains begin. On this occasion, the dry dirt path required only a walking stick to help me climb. When we arrived, a family member greeted us, then announced our arrival. Dona Suzanna's thin frame appeared from another room. She seemed more frail, her walk more labored, her black and gray hair pulled back. "Oh you came!" she said giving me her hand. I smiled and nodded 'Yes'.

She led us into a semi-darkened room where she sleeps. I observed the dirt floor, the bed of wood planks covered by old blankets, a beaten-up wooden footstool on the floor. After all these years, the poverty still jolts me. Elena moved the footstool to the center of the room and covered it with a multicolored cloth. On top of it she carefully laid a small white linen cloth where she gingerly placed the pyx holding the consecrated hosts. Maria, placed a long taper white candle on the stool and lit it. With this readied makeshift altar, we began.

We recited together the prayers in preparation for Suzanna to receive the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. "Body of Christ," Elena said, lifting up a small consecrated white host before her. "Amen," (I believe) Suzanna replied. Elena then placed the host on her tongue. Her eyes closed, hands folded, Suzanna received and ate, as we sang and then prayed for her healing.

It looked all so ordinary, but it was more than that. Faith believes the extra-ordinary presence of Jesus in all of



his ordinary disguises. He comes to us in the grandeur of a massive stadium in a big U.S. city, and in the most humble of homes in a remote jungle in Guatemala.

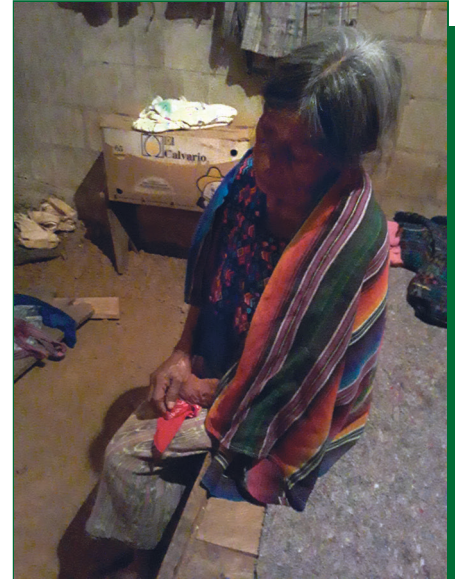
I love Mother Teresa of Calcutta's words on the Eucharist - "How did Christ love us? He made himself the Bread of Life. He made himself a living bread that you and I may eat and live. He made himself so small, so weak, just bread to satisfy our hunger for God."

As we prepared to leave, I could tell by Dona Suzanna's smile and words of gratitude that she was content and at peace.

She had been fed.

As I stepped out of the darkened room into the bright Ixcán sunshine, squinting my eyes, putting on my sunglasses, grabbing my walking stick - I, too, felt a fullness within. I, too, had met Jesus.

Thank you for supporting Ixcán Ministries. Your prayers and financial donations allow us to continue the work that we do with and for the people of the Ixcán. On their behalf, I extend a heart-felt "Muchísimas Gracias!"



Sincerely,

Kathy Snider

### Mission Update:

Kathy returned to North Dakota on June 22nd. Unfortunately, she brought back with her a virus and parasite (from contaminated water) that caused fever and rash and landed her in the hospital for two days. She is fully recovered now and will be in the U.S. until January to do reverse-mission activities. The mission projects of scholarships, the library, food and medical emergency assistance, and luchadora women's program will be managed by Javier Gonzalez and Carmen Jimenez in Santiago Ixcán with assistance from Kathy by phone if needed.

Ixcán Creations weavings and jewelry artisans are seeking outlets in which to sell. If you, your church, or small women's groups would be interested in hosting a sale please let us know.

### 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:  
Ixcán Ministries  
PO Box 51  
Mandan, ND 58554

[www.ixcanministries.org](http://www.ixcanministries.org)  
[ixcan\\_ministries@yahoo.com](mailto:ixcan_ministries@yahoo.com)  
Kathy Snider, Director  
(701) 425-1914

View Ixcán Creations products at:  
**Tienda Marleny**  
[ixcan\\_ministries@yahoo.com](mailto:ixcan_ministries@yahoo.com)