



**The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent;  
they are renewed each morning so great is his faithfulness. –Lamentations 3:22-26**



Dear Friends,

At the end of June I returned to North Dakota, where from the prairie landscape one can see the horizon for miles. I love sunrises and sunsets, so living part of my life in a tropical rainforest where a view of the horizon is blocked by trees I try when I'm here, to see the magnificent reds, yellows, and oranges painting the sky as the sun rises and sets as often as I can.

The mission shifts when I am in the United States, but some things remain constant, both in Guatemala and here – the ministry of presence – being with people and building and maintaining relationships. In addition, while in the U.S., I also have opportunities to share inspiring stories of the people with whom I live and serve in the Ixcán.

In October, I found myself at the sandy edge of the Atlantic Ocean, basking in a glorious sunrise- this time not from a prairie overlook, but from Wabasso Beach, Florida. I was invited there by Kathy Terrebonne, a friend from North Dakota who now lives in Sebastian, Florida. Kathy belongs to the Council of Catholic Women (CCC), an organization that promotes the spirituality, leadership, and service of their members in parishes and Dioceses throughout the United States. Through her, the leadership of her local CCC group invited me to speak at their October monthly meeting at St. Sebastian church.

I received the best of Florida hospitality through my hosts and the gracious friendliness and openness in the parish of St. Sebastian, especially through the women of the CCC. I had never presented to a group in Florida before and everything felt new - Including the weather in the hurricane season. I 'dodged' two hurricanes- arriving days after Helene and departing a few days before Milton hit - my mission presentation and Ixcán Creation sales sandwiched between them. (Thankfully, everyone in my life in Florida – Sebastian, West Palm Beach, Miami, Pensacola and Tampa- survived and are safe.)

All in all, God worked and my time in Florida felt graced - like a sunrise offering newness and possibilities.

While in Florida, I received a phone call from one of our ND donors asking me for information regarding our

non-profit ID number. I knew that his wife, my friend, had been battling cancer. I asked him, "How is Helen?" And he said, "I think we are on the final stretch..."

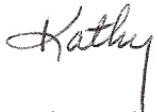
Back in North Dakota now, after visiting my friend a number of times in her home, I realize that she is teaching me how to leave this life. In home hospice, and in the loving care of her husband and family, her words of deep faith, surrender, and gratitude even as her body slowly gets weaker inspire me. We pray together. I don't want her to go. But it feels like I am witnessing a beautiful sunset - ever so slowly disappearing below the horizon - until out of sight. A closing of a life.

Our faith tells us, however, that she will rise as promised where eye has not seen, nor ear has heard nor has it entered into the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love Him. (I Corinthians 2:9)

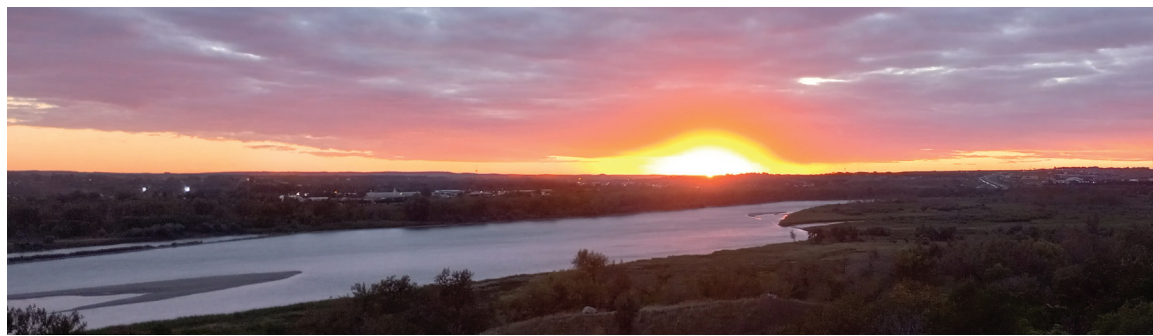
A heart felt Muchísimas Gracias for your financial and prayerful support of our mission! We are deeply grateful for you. May God bless and keep you and yours. Know you are in our prayers.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,



Kathy Snider



### Mission Update:

Guatemala's President Arévalo continues to strive for reform and development but is greatly hindered by the corrupt systems deeply entrenched for years in the country. In the Ixcán the people are facing even more economic hardship due to the two-year drought which destroyed the production of cardamom, their cash-crop.

Our outreach and education programs continue under the supervision of our on-site administrator, Javier Gonzalez, with the help of Carmen Jimenez and Kathy via telephone. Our luchadora women's group, corn, housing, tinaco (water tank) projects are in place and our library and scholarship programs are all running smoothly.

The women artisans and jewelers of Ixcán Creations microbusiness continue to meet once a month to pray for their business and Ixcán Ministries. Their beautiful handmade jewelry and weavings will be for sale at **St. Anne's Catholic Church, 1321 Braman Ave in Bismarck, on Saturday and Sunday November 23 and 24th** following all the Masses. Please consider stopping by to purchase some special Christmas gifts that make a real difference in the lives of these women who are trying to provide for themselves and their families.

#### **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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