



Dear Friends,

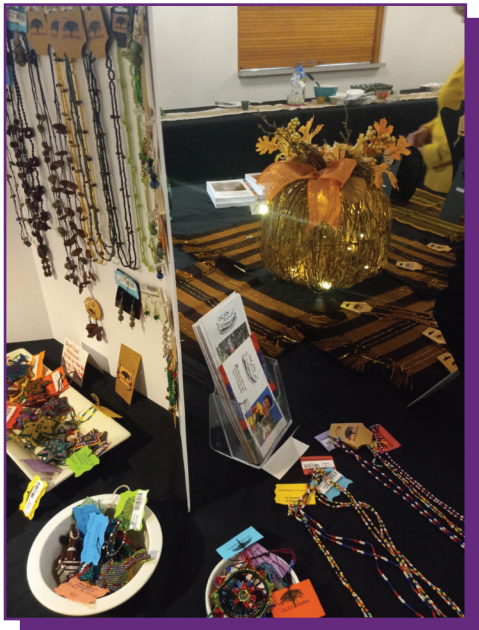
In September I spent a month in Ohio in the adjacent apartment of the home of friend and board member, Mary Fristad, to dedicate focused time on the first draft of the book I've been working on again/off again for years. Apart from that, her parish pastor of St. Michael the Archangel, agreed to allow us to sell our women's Ixcán Creation products after all the Masses during a weekend while I was there. Both endeavors proved fruitful and blessed by God.

I write about Ixcán Creation's women now, as it nears the time of gift-giving (Christmas) and the time (Advent) to prepare our hearts for Christ's incarnation to the world and the invitation to receive His coming anew into our lives.

For me, His coming will always involve the economically poor.



Ixcán Creations is one of Ixcán Ministries outreaches to empower women in Santiago Ixcán. Over the years, I've witnessed the women's skills develop creating beautiful handmade weavings, jewelry and other items which have graced the people of the United States, and helped these Guatemalan women financially as all earnings from sales goes directly to the artisan. I love how every sale of a pair of jade earrings, a back strap woven shawl, or a seed rosary transforms for the creator earned cash in their hands to help them pay for basic needs like food, medicine, shoes for their kids and notebooks for education. (Or ingredients to make tamales on Christmas Eve.)



In addition, I believe the creating process has increased the women's self-worth, improved their mental health, and has strengthened their sense of community with one another. (They gather and pray once a month for their business and other intentions plus do a fun outdoor recreational outing together with their children and me once a year!)

The season of Advent invites us to more quiet, more reflection, more prayer in the throes of the 'holiday music, festivities, and gift giving.'

If gift-giving however, is part of your Christmas tradition, I love the idea of giving a gift that 'keeps on giving' in the lives of those who struggle to provide the basic necessities for themselves and their families.

The people of the Ixcán, Ixcán Ministries board of directors and myself are deeply grateful for you, your prayers and financial support of our mission. Know you are in our prayers.

May your lives be touched, your needs be met, and your hearts be filled this Advent and Christmas as we both give and receive. And meet Jesus in His ever-coming.

Sincerely,



Kathy Snider



Mission Update:

Kathy will return to Guatemala on January 8th. Vilia Morales, one of our jewelers who was mentioned in a previous newsletter, is holding strong following surgery and waiting for the next steps of her cancer healing process.

Our outreach and educational programs are moving forward under the supervision of our on-site administrator, Javier Gonzalez, with the help of Carmen Jimenez and with Kathy via telephone and video calls.

For those in the Bismarck/Mandan area there will be an Ixcán Creations sale at Ascension Catholic Church (1825 S. 3rd Street in Bismarck) following all the Masses on November 29th and 30th (Saturday – 5p.m., Sunday – 8a.m., 9:30a.m. and 11:00a.m.). For those who are not in the area but interested in purchasing our women's product see our website www.ixcanministries.org and click View Ixcán Creations.

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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Kathy Snider, Director

View Ixcán Creations products at:
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