



Caminando Por La Paz

E-NEWS Jan-Feb 2018

Misioneros de Padre Tomas is the U.S. based 501 (3) (C) dedicated to the support of Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala City.

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Secretaria— Violeta Estrada

Vocal 1— Sandra Us

Vocal 2 — Liseth de Leon



Pillars of Our Program:

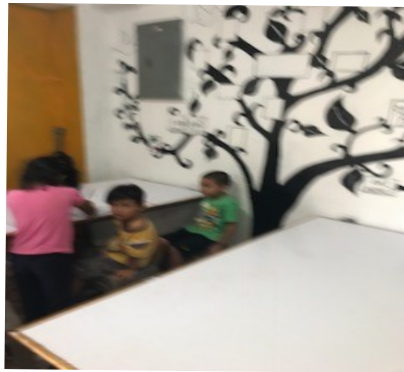
1. Spirituality
2. Education
3. Community Outreach
4. Nutrition

The new school year begins.

In Guatemala the school year is different, it begins the end of January and runs until the early part of November.

This year, Caminando Por La Paz has 29 students supported in various local schools and universities..

5 of the 29 are in University. All those in Universities are working in the program serving our neighbors.



Left to right: (1) Freddy tutoring younger children

(2) Younger children awaiting tutoring

(3) Older children in the library room for tutoring



We estimate the annual cost of one child attending a school to be \$ 600.00. At present we have six students receiving scholarships from individuals. The others continue in school with funding from our general fund.

You can sponsor a child by pledging \$50.00 per month or with a one-time donation of \$600.00 for a school year.

Visit us at: [Caminando Por La Paz](#)

When the eyes need



Members of the community at the eye clinic

Caminando Por La Paz has an excellent relationship with the clinic of Visualiza. They are a very high quality eye clinic and willing help those we serve. For younger children there are no charges whatsoever. However; for the older kids and adults there are small fees for the lens, frames, and eye drops. The program does not have money for eye care. We have been very fortunate since an anonymous donor in the U.S. has been paying these fees on behalf of our program.

It is more blessed to give than to receive

Acts 20:35



Coffee Up-Date

The process of our coffee project continues to be a bit slow but we have forward movement.

In the past couple of months there has been a slight increase in sales. We continue to make headway in our effort to increase our market share. As reported in previous up-dates our best market has been Maryknoll affiliate groups that purchase our coffee for re-sale at their locations.

One of our major difficulties and very hard to overcome is the price of shipping. We suffer greatly from the Amazon affect. While resale giants have leveraged their shipping costs by using their volume sales to obtain greatly reduced shipping rates we have unfortunately received increased shipping rates as the shippers try to recover their losses. The U.S. Postal Service's (if it fits it ships) continues to be the lowest rate we can obtain. It has been suggested that we increase the price of the coffee and ship without cost to the consumer. If anyone has feelings or suggestions in this area please let us know.

We were able to sell a few pounds at the International Conference. We feel that the greater benefit of having our coffee at the conference was exposure to the coffee project. We remain hopeful that more groups may choose to sell the coffee on our behalf or perhaps as a local fund raising effort. The sale of our coffee supports both our educational projects and the growers. If another group chooses to sell our coffee as a local fund raiser it would be a triple play.

We of course offer discount to groups purchasing larger quantities of our

Something new in our Spiritual component:

As of Friday, February 9th we will have two Holy Hours going on at the same time. The new one will be for young people. The idea is to encourage more individuals to participate, and to provide more spiritual guidance to the youth we serve.



One of our 70 to 80 tutoring students.

Remember they receive a meal when they come for tutoring.

On the next page you will find an editorial.

The thinking behind this editorial began during the great influx of unaccompanied minors coming to the United States. At that time I was with the program in Guatemala. At one point I was in a taxi cab and talking with the driver. As our conversation continued I slowly realized the driver had been involved in illegal immigration and knew more than most how things work. That experience has lead me to the editorial you will find on the next page.

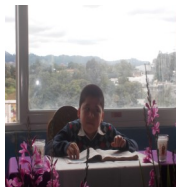
Editorial

My fears concerning DACA

There is lot of interest at present concerning the Dreamer act and rather or not Dreamers can remain in the U.S. Unfortunately immigration issues in the United States continue to be more talk than resolution. The country seems to be so evenly divided that nothing real ever happens. However, when we recall how compassionately most of our citizens are, we begin to realize that eventually the issue will be decided in such a way that the dreamers will be allowed to stay with a path to citizenship.

My great fear is this: Once the Dreamers are allowed to stay, there will again be unscrupulous individuals in Latin America who will mislead parents to mortgage their land and send their children to the U.S. These unsavory individuals will not want to be known as coyotes, as they were in the past, but will try to call themselves guides; just as they did last time. There will be many problems: some kids will be abandoned when troubles come along the route; others may be abused as they are passed from one "guide" to another "guide". Some will even die on route. When and if they arrive in the U.S., just as the last time, many will not even know why their parents sent them. Yes, we will accept them and Reception Centers will be over crowded as they do the very best with limited resources. We will be told they are escaping violence in their native lands and that is at least a partial truth. However; we seem to forget that historically there has been violence in Latin America and at times even more violence than is occurring now.

My heart goes out to those who will come and to the parents they will leave behind. There are so many sides to the immigration issue, both in the U.S. and South America and through out our entire world. Unfortunately, while the problem concerns me deeply, I have no answer. At present I can only share my thinking with you and pray that an appropriate response will appear one day. —The sooner the better.



Peach the Gospel at all times. When necessary use words

(attributed to St. Francis)

Lament over the Destruction of Jerusalem

By the rivers of Babylon—
there we sat down and there we wept
when we remembered Zion.
² On the willows^[a] there
we hung up our harps.
³ For there our captors
asked us for songs,
and our tormentors asked for mirth,
saying,
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

How could we sing the LORD's song
in a foreign land
⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!
⁶ Let my tongue cling to the roof of my
mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy.

Remember, O LORD, against the Edom-
ites
the day of Jerusalem's fall,
how they said, "Tear it down! Tear it
down!
Down to its foundations!"
⁸ O daughter Babylon, you devastator!^[b]
Happy shall they be who pay you back
what you have done to us!
⁹ Happy shall they be who take your lit-
tle ones
and dash them against the rock!

Psalm 137 is the basis for the popu-
lar song:

Listen to:

[By the Rivers of Babylon](#)

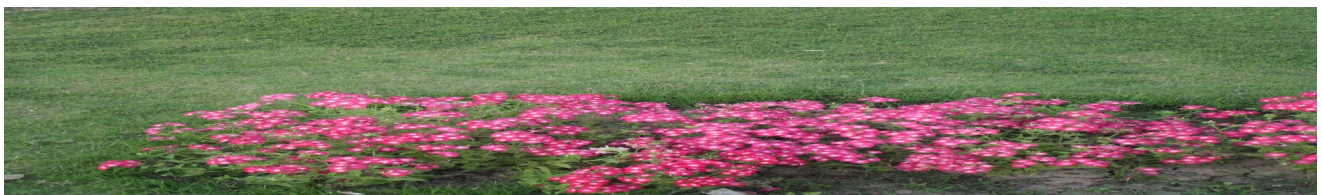
[Rios de Babylonia](#)

Meditation Questions:

How could I apply this to the situation
of the dreamers -- Strangers in a
strange land.?

Who are the captives today? Immi-
grant children, Other victims of hu-
man trafficking?

Another popular song, "Blowing in the
Wind", ask "When Will it Ever End?"



You can become a part of Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala



One great way is simple:

(1) Just pray for the success of our efforts.

(2) Send your donation to:

Caminando Por La Paz

Post Office Box 1583, New Caney, TX. 77357

Or donate on our website at:

(3) Purchase Family Coffee—

The coffee projects supports our educational efforts as well as the producers in Honduras.

(4) Sponsor one of our students.

\$50 monthly or \$600 a year

You can learn about us and donate at: [Caminando Por La Paz](http://CaminandoPorLaPaz.org)