E-news for Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala

Co-editors: Sister Sandy Atha & Ron Covey



Missioneros De Padre Tomas is the U.S. based non– Profit Organization dedicated to the support of Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala City.

VICE PRESIDEENT Sandra Atha

TREASRER Harry Lehr

SECRETARY: Tato Ramirez

ADVISORS

Sherry Arrick

Doug Arrick

Lori Morris

At the program in Guatemala City:

President: _____ Carlos Miranda

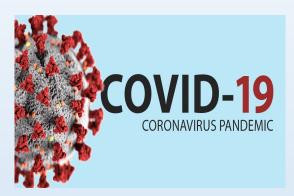
Vice President Isis Miranda

Secteria ______ Violeta Esterda

Vocal #1 _____ Sandra US

Vocal #2 _____ Liseth de Leon

CAMINANDO POR LA PAZ IS THE ONLY MISSION PROGRAM DIRECTED BY MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES



Caminando Por La Paz has been extra busy this past few weeks. In conjunction with Cross Catholic International we have been preparing and distributing food packets to 150 neighborhood families.



Food for distribution to our neighbors.

Above is a photo of the various food choices placed in the food packets being delivered to those in need.

There is a photo essay of the project on page 4 of this E-news.

Family Coffee

As most of you know Caminando Por La Paz has had a coffee project for the past several years. Since its inception 6 years ago we have slowly been working to obtain a greater and greater market share. While we remain a long way behind any major brand we none the less have consistently improved the amount we are able to sell each year.

Why do we have the coffee project:

Since the death of our founder, Father Thomas Goekler, we realized that we have a need for steady income if we are to assure our ability to continue the work originated by our founder. At that time and until this day we rely primarily on individual donations. We do have one very good grant for both the feeding and tutoring of our kids. That comes from Cross Catholic International, perhaps some of our readers are familiar with them as they visit catholic perishes and raise funds for NGO's such as ours. Thus we decided to work with farmers in Honduras and sell coffee to support the program. We have yet to approach anything like real success; at least in terms of full support of our programs. However in the past two years there has been sufficient profit to provide many extras to our students and neighbors not to mention being a buffer against the constant increase in cost of all we do.

About the Coffee

Family Coffee is the name we gave our product. We did this because we are working with the farmers in Honduras and wanted a name that would indicate the strong connection with the growers. We are often asked if we are fair trade. The answer to that is that we are direct trade instead. The main differences are that our farmers are not paying fees for certifications and we are dealing directly with them. We promote our self's as the coffee with a cause. Actually when you think about it we have at least two causes (1) support of our work in Guatemala City and (2) using a small amount of the profit to assist the farmers in improving their already premium coffee.

Thus a small portion of the profit supports Productores de Café La Familia, who are growing the coffee in Yaunera, San Pedro Copan, Honduras, They grow the coffee at an altitude of 1,400 meters (4593 feet), a great altitude for growing coffee.

Family Coffee is a project of the Maryknoll Affiliates who manage the Caminando Por Lal Paz project in Guatemala City providing education and nutritional support to students in one of the most marginalized sections of the city.

You can learn more about our coffee project on <u>our website</u>. There you can purchase regular or ground coffee in regular, dark roast and decaf varieties either whole bean or ground.



One good thing about our coffee is our policy of frequent roastings to ensure freshness which equals better flavor

Meditation

In a world so wired and interconnected

Our anxious hearts are pummeled by

An endless barrage of

troubling news.

We are daily aware of more grief, O lord

Than we can rightly con-

sider,

Of more suffering and

scandal

Than we can respond to, When the cacophony of

of more

Hostility, hatred, horror

and injustice

compassion.

But you, O Jesus, are not

disquieted

By such news of cruelty and terror and war

You are neither anxious

nor overwhelmed.

You carried the full weight of the suffering

Of a broken world when

you hung upon

The cross, and you carry

it still.

universal distress

Unsettles us, remind us that we are but small

Than we can engage with And finite creatures, never designed to carry

This meditation is presented with permission of **Compassion International**

Meditation Question: What can I do to help others during this time of COVID-19





Our response to COVID—19

We, of course, continue our Education Project. Our tutoring area is too small for good social distancing; therefore we have purchased internet programs for our kids.

At present the greatest problem for those we serve is obtaining sufficient nutrition. In response to this sad condition we have been working in conjunction with Cross Catholic International to provide food packets. We have distributed 150 food packets to those in need.

Below is a annotated photo study showing details of our distribution process



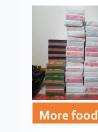


Home with supplies



Getting it all to the house















To the left you see Isis and Carla from the Program. They are involved in the every day operation of the program.

Here you see them as they respond to the COVID-19 crisis. They are taking supplies into the house to sort and distribute,.

Note: They are wearing mask. Evidence says that there is less reluctance in Guatemala to wearing mask. This accounts for the slower spread of the virus. The great problem in Guatemala is hunger

Supplies stacked in a cornor of the kitchen





Sorted and packaged for distribution











Lost amid the supplies

The story of the food distribution is based on a communication from our president Carlos Miranda. You can view this document and his captions to photos by <u>clicking here</u> and then open hyperlink

I have nearly daily contact with either the program and/or friends in Guatemala. What I have come to believe is that although there may be fewer cases of COVID per thousand people the biggest problem is Hunger. I



The face of hunger

LET"S ASK OURSELVES WHAT: WE SHOULD DO ABOUT THIS?





Our work is cut out for us!

We told them to ware mask to avoid Covid-19 - Ware Masks!

We try hard to use our donor's money to teach better than this (Perhaps just a bit levity during Covid-19)



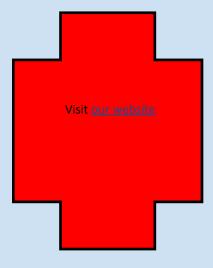
Our tutoring group after interaction with some visitors.



Pray that we can

continue to do the work started by

Father Tom Goekler



Visit the <u>Family Coffee website</u>. There you could purchase the premium coffee product that supports the work of our program

You can mail your tax deductible donation to:

Caminando Por la Paz, Post Office Box 1582, New Caney, Texas, 77357

