

Third Quarter 2020 E-news for Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala

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Misioneros De Padre Tomas is the US based non-profit Organization dedicated to the support of Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala City:

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

We are continuing the work that was started by Maryknoll Mission Father, Thomas Goekler.

Caminando's personal experience recognizes the COVID-19 related hunger problem in Guatemala. You can read more about our response in the May/June issue of this newsletter. It is available on our website in the e-news library.



John 21:15-17

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" Lord, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said **"Feed my Lambs".**

Again Jesus Said, "Simon son of John, do you love me? He answered "Yes Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, **"Take care of my sheep"**

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me? Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said "Lord you know all things; you know I love you."

Jesus said, **"Feed my sheep"**

? How can we respond to this during the current crisis? In Guatemala, here at home and in the entire world?

**WE ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF FATHER TOM ONLY BECAUSE OF THE
FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS LIKE YOU**



Coffee Update

As in past issues of this Electronic News letter we are reporting that our market share is increasing; albeit at an exceptionally slow rate of progress.

We are currently very hopeful of obtaining a much greater market share. Our recent receipt of a Google Ads Grant is the basis of our belief that we will soon have great news to report on this front.

Our problem at the moment is that we are experiencing difficulty with the learning curve. There is much to learn: understanding all the rules, writing to the specifications of the program, how to understand the analytics, how to set the bid per click, etc. etc.

Just stay tuned, we hope to have great news in our next issue of the E-news.

Here is a photo of one of the coffee trees in Honduras.

Our partners “Producers de Café la Familia” grow the coffee in Yaunera, San Pedro Copan, Honduras. The coffee is grown at an altitude of 1,400 meter (4953 feet) an excellent altitude for the growing of premium coffee.



You can purchase this excellent coffee on our website at:

www.fathertomsfamilycoffee.com

We have whole bean or ground, both regular and dark roast as well as Decaf, always recently roasted.

The Situation for Schools in Guatemala

I recently had occasion to talk with my friend Samuel Eduardo Santos, director of SEL (Systema Educativo Latino Americano) a school in Antigua, Guatemala. I am very sure the situation he reports is the same for the various schools utilized by Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala City.

SEL was founded in order to provide education to youth from families of limited economic means. Its guiding principle is its desire to provide ethical value education to all who participate. A few of our readers have had the privilege of visiting this school during Maryknoll Mission immersion programs or when visiting Comminando Por La Paz.

As with schools throughout Guatemala SEL is unable to hold regular classes and has been providing as much support as possible to students via the internet. In order to provide as much support as possible to students Samuel has been obliged to conserve expenses by temporarily discontinuing at the school location and is working out of a provisional office.

As in the city the biggest problem for students and their families is the lack of nutrition. In a country where the norm is that only one person in a family

has a job it becomes very difficult when something as drastic as COVID-19 comes along ; without work there is no income. Thus hunger become pervasive. Unfortunately, the assistance from the government is extreme limited.

Actually this problem of hunger is very common through out Guatemala at this time. I recently had a contact on messenger with another friend who lives and works near the frontier with Mexico telling me that he would like to find recourses to feed starving children.

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JORNADA MATUTINA: "Sólo para personas de Éxito"

- Ciclo Básico o Cultura General
- Bachillerato en Ciencias y Letras con Orientación en Finanzas y Administración
- Bachillerato en Ciencias y Letras con Orientación en Gestión de Oficinas
- Bachillerato en Ciencias y Letras con Orientación en Turismo
- Perito en Gerencia Administrativa
- Perito en Administración de Empresas

JORNADA VESPERTINA:

- Magisterio De Educación Preprimaria
- Bachillerato en Ciencias y Letras con Orientación en Computación
- Perito Contador con Orientación en Computación
- Secretariado y Oficinista
- Secretariado Bilingüe Español-Inglés

FIN DE SEMANA:

- Ciclo Básico por Madurez
- Bachillerato en Ciencias y Letras Por Madurez
- Bachillerato en Computación con Orientación Comercial

Academia de: COMPUTACIÓN Y PROGRAMACIÓN

Oficina Provisional:
Calle de los Nazarenos,
entre 6.ª y 7.ª Avenida
Norte, No. 9 Antigua G.
WhatsApp: 59282965

E-mail: colegiosel@yahoo.com
YouTube Twitter Facebook

On the next couple of pages we present a photo study of the school.

Sam and his mother founded the school in the 1990's



Here they are in one of the class rooms.

The provisional office



Oficina Provisional
"SEL"
Calle de los
Nazarenos, entre
6.^a y 7.^a Av. Norte,
No. 9 Antigua
Guatemala

If you were lucky enough to have visited the school you recognize the lunch area.



Just as at Caminando Por la Paz the lunch room serves as the dinning room



Schools provide education in classrooms.



Must be relaxation class time

The school has a recreation area



Waiting for class or.....



Sam in the directors Office



If in the future you happen to be on a Maryknoll Mission Trip there is a possibility your group would visit this school. In the past, Maryknoll groups have both visited the school and on other occasions been given a tour of Antigua by their students who study to be tour guides.

Sister Connie Pospisil

Rosa-Beatriz Castaneda - Guatemala & Santa Orlando—Albany Chapter

In Lemoa Guatemala every morning for 15 minutes

Sr. Connie Pospisil (who died in May), Connected with Nature, placing herself under the Jacaranda tree. She said, "It generates energy for me. I love its branches because they grow naturally on all sides: I enjoy seeing the tree. Before Easter, I admire how its purple flowers make a carpet on the ground.

Trees are recognized as a powerful symbols of transformation. Liberation, growth and resurrection. How can we not connect Sr. Connie Pospisil, MM with the life-giving trees? From her simplicity, she encouraged people to get out of their comfort zone to open up to a world full of wonderful experiences.

From her love for nature and depth of silence Connie tried to live in balance and to understand the relationship and communion that exist between Mother Earth, the Cosmos and Humanity. That energy received from the trees led her to establish relationship with children, youth, adults and those around her.

Like the tree in Lemoa, little by little, Connie's branches spread in 2007, Sister Connie and Father Thomas Goekler introduced the Affiliate Movement as another expression of the Maryknoll family. They are considered the co-founders of the Guatemalan Affiliates, which officially began in 2009 and is now known as the Guatemalan Maryknoll Affiliates—Sister Connie Pospisil Chapter.

She was a stable force with roots that spread underground, connecting groups from all over the world.

The branches continued to expand; Connie suggested that during the month of November, the senior students at Monte Maria School could experience life in rural Lemoa. They would understand the reality of Guatemala and dialogue with the people learning about their needs, hopes and sufferings. As they taught reading, writing and mathematics they learned to love and value the vulnerable population of Guatemala.

Connie collaborated with others to help develop the Nutritional Center in Lemoa, which cares for malnourished children from birth to five years and supports the children's families with food. She was also instrumental in developing the "Guatemala Institute of Radio Education (IGER in Spanish) which offers distance courses to young people who cannot attend a formal school. Both of these programs owe their success to Connie and Valentina Castro a Guatemalan Affiliate and social worker who helped by communicating with the people and managing these programs that have changed many people's lives.

Sister Connie was truly a metaphor for the Tree of Life small in stature, her arms were raised upward—open and welcoming. She was a stable force with roots that spread underground connecting groups from all over the world. A knock on the door in 2009 was their start of the partnering between the Albany Affiliates and Lemoa. The members of the Albany Chapter wanted connection to be rooted in the works of Maryknoll

we communicated by e-mail and bimonthly Skype conversations.

Over the years the Albany Chapter funded over 80 stoves for the community, many water filters and countless becas—scholarships for continuing education. Albany contributed to the nutrition program (a dream come true for Connie) and the IGER distance learning school. The small aldea (village) of Lemoa was seeing great changes due to Connie's efforts. Whenever the Sisters returned to Maryknoll in NY Connie would reserve a car and drive two and a half hours to spend the weekend with us. Connie became family; our relationship was full of love and laughter.

When delivering the homily at the closing Mass of the 2014 Maryknoll Affiliate Conference Connie said,

"We need to actively engage our imaginations in shaping visions of the future. It is a time of transition, a time for hope for trust in things unseen, for planting seedings that will grow to shade the justice and peace of future generations. The times we live in may indeed have greater need of imagination, risk and aring that of patience."

Connie was one tree in a forest of many. Her joy, inner strength, and authenticity allowed her to touch our hearts; her spirit lives on in all of us.

Meditation

Blessed Among Us

Bishop James E. Walsh

Confessor to the Chinese (1891—1981)



On July 10, 1970, a frail and elderly man left the company of the Red Guards and walked across the bridge linking mainland China and the island of Hong Kong. After twelve years in prison, Bishop James E. Walsh, the last foreign missionary in Communist China was on his way home.

Walsh had initially gone to China in 1918 as part of the first overseas team of Maryknoll missionaries and in 1927 he was named bishop of Kongmoon. In 1936 he was recalled to the United States to serve for ten years as Maryknoll's second superior general. But in 1948 he was back in Shanghai. With the Communist victory, his activities were steadily restricted. Yet he swore he would never leave voluntarily. He believed the vocation of a priest remained the same even if everything else was stripped away: to be a representative of God's love. This calling could be fulfilled under any circumstance. "If we start to pick and choose for ourselves, it is very hard to tell if we are carrying out

our vocation or running away from it"

In 1958 he was arrested, charged with espionage, and sentenced to twenty years in prison. He accepted his situation with remarkable serenity, believing that in prison he served the Gospel as faithfully as he could. Finally, in 1980, at the age of seventy-nine he was released.

Walsh lived on for many years, revered by Maryknollers and others as a heroic and holy confessor. He disclaimed special recognition: "I was a Catholic priest and my people were in trouble, so I simply stayed with them as all priests should at all times."

He died on July 29, 1991, at the age of ninety.

"Prayer is so powerful. I am a living example of what prayer can do"

Bishop James E. Walsh

What should we pray for now in the time of COVID?



Our kids on a play day.

There are many ways you can help with the work of Caminando Por La Paz

Pray that we are able to continue our work

Visit our [website](#)

Visit the [Family Coffee](#) website. There you can purchase our premium Honuran Coffee.

Your purchase will support the education of children in one of the most marginalized areas of Guatemala City

You can mail a tax deductible donation to:

Caminando Por La Paz, Post Office
Box 1583, New Caney, Texas 77357

Publish us on your social media links. It will help us greatly

A click on white text will take you to the related link.