



CAMINANDO

Por la Paz

Caminando por la Paz, a mission program in Guatemala, is supported by the non-profit organization, Misionero de Padre Tomas.

For the last quarter of 2022, Caminando por la Paz shares a variety of news items:

- Our students get ready for Christmas.
- Ron Covey asks for help fortifying the student scholarship program.
- Meet two former students.
- The Board's field trip to the Texas roaster of Family Coffee.
- We celebrate events great and small.

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caminando students
prepare Christmas
greetings for friends
near and far.

A Message from Ron Covey:

Assuring That Caminando Por La Paz In Guatemala Will Continue

A few months ago, I first asked for individuals or groups to begin working with Father Tom's Mission to assure the continuance of Caminando Por La Paz. I have been concerned about what would happen to the program if I could no longer continue supporting it from the US.

Some people have responded, especially in our website maintenance and production of the quarterly E-News. In other areas, not so much—many have shown interest but have not actually signed on.

During recent months, many have inquired about how things are working, and I have thought about how such help would look. Who would do what and how? We previously published a list of responsibilities that could be accepted by others. See my message in the 2nd Quarter 2022 newsletter.

We have often referred to ourselves as the only Maryknoll Affiliate-operated mission program. One area that never was fully developed is the sponsorship of a child's education. We pay to keep a number of needy children in local schools. A few Affiliates could manage this.

Working in this area would require coordination with the program personnel in Guatemala. Individuals might believe they need good Spanish to work directly with the program personnel. I can assure you that it can be greatly rewarding without Spanish. Just use Google Translate; it is that easy.

Working with the Sponsorship program would entail fostering communication between sponsor and student, billing the sponsor for the annual fee (currently \$600), and publicizing the program, especially among the program donors.

For more information on how you can join the effort to assure continuance of Caminando por la Paz, please contact Ron at rocovey@yahoo.com.

From the Streets to Sports

Anderson de León is a young man from Colonia El Paraíso II, in Zone 18, Guatemala City, who has liked sports since he was little. But he was a terrible student, because he was very restless and disrespectful to his



Anderson as a young student at Caminando for tutoring.

teachers and classmates. He attended tutorials at the Caminando por la Paz, and, with that push, he managed to complete his primary studies. One of his older brothers, Jordi, had lived in the Caminando house while Father Thomas was still alive (pre-2012). Jordi was the one who cared for and defended Anderson the most, but he was murdered at an early age. So Anderson set out to take advantage of his talents in sports and got an appointment to take an exam for placement at one of the schools for a professional soccer team in the city.

He managed to pass the tests and got a scholarship to continue training at the sports school. Today he has succeeded, at his young age, in joining the reserves of a professional team, and he is very close to playing in the first division in this sport. Today, Anderson remembers his years in Caminando por la Paz and the words of his brother Jordi. And he always returns to the community to visit his family and friends, and to play for Caminando's soccer team whenever he can.

Anderson is an excellent example of overcoming odds, taking advantage of gifts, and perseverance. And when he returns to his neighborhood that saw him grow, he also shows that he does not forget his roots, his people.



Anderson signs a contract with the professional soccer team's reserves.

Hilda, Our Oldest Student



Hilda, 36 years old and a single mother of four girls, ages 22, 15, 11, and 7 years, maintains that the program has been a great blessing in her life and that of her daughters. Before receiving help from Caminando por la Paz, she had many economic and emotional problems. When Hilda got pregnant with her last baby, she was living with her mother-in-law, who forced her out of her home. She had to go live at her mother's house, where there was no electricity nor in-house water. One of the many problems for Hilda's girls was living among ten people in a small house with small rooms. Hilda washed and ironed clothes for others and also painted houses from time to time. With the money from this work, she could barely feed her daughters. At times she did not even have enough money to buy bread.

Now that she receives help from Caminando, Hilda's life has changed a lot. She no longer worries about food for her daughters and herself, since the days she helps us with the tutorials, she and her four daughters eat lunch here. In addition, Caminando provides her (and all those who work here) groceries as an incentive.

Hilda is grateful first of all to God, and also to the sponsors who have donated so much to Caminando por la Paz for the well-being of all the children who receive help. Her eldest daughter, Astrid, graduated from high school at the top of her class and was awarded a scholarship from Cross Catholic through Caminando's sponsorship. Hilda is very grateful for that: her daughter is achieving her dream, thanks to Caminando.

Later, Hilda also applied for educational assistance, because she wanted to have a better job. Caminando granted her a scholarship to study the basics and finish high school. Then she was awarded a scholarship to take a nursing assistant course. Through these studies, she has now obtained better income for her home and continues to help at Caminando as much as possible in her free time.



Field Trip to the Roaster

On Saturday, November 12th, the board and friends of Father Tom's Mission (the nonprofit that supports Caminando por la Paz in Guatemala) met at Copan Trade, the company that roasts Family Coffee.

Copan Trade, in Tom Ball, Texas, receives the coffee beans from the beneficio. The beneficio is the plant in Honduras that dries the beans Family Coffee has purchased from the growers, prepares them for export, and ships them to Copan Trade for roasting.

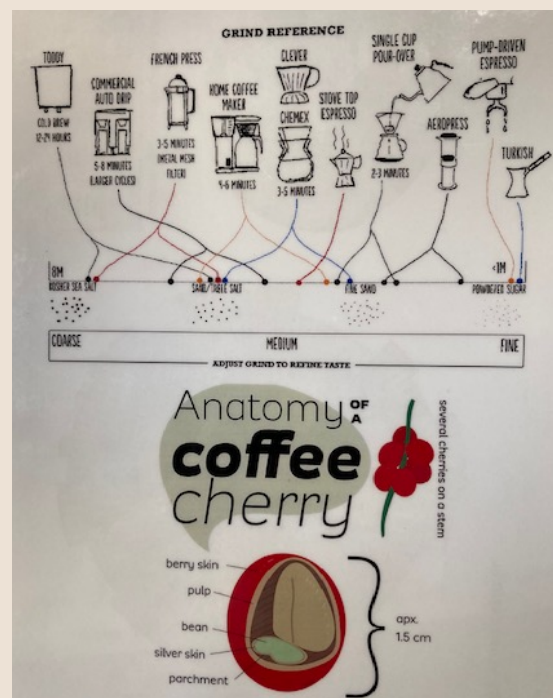
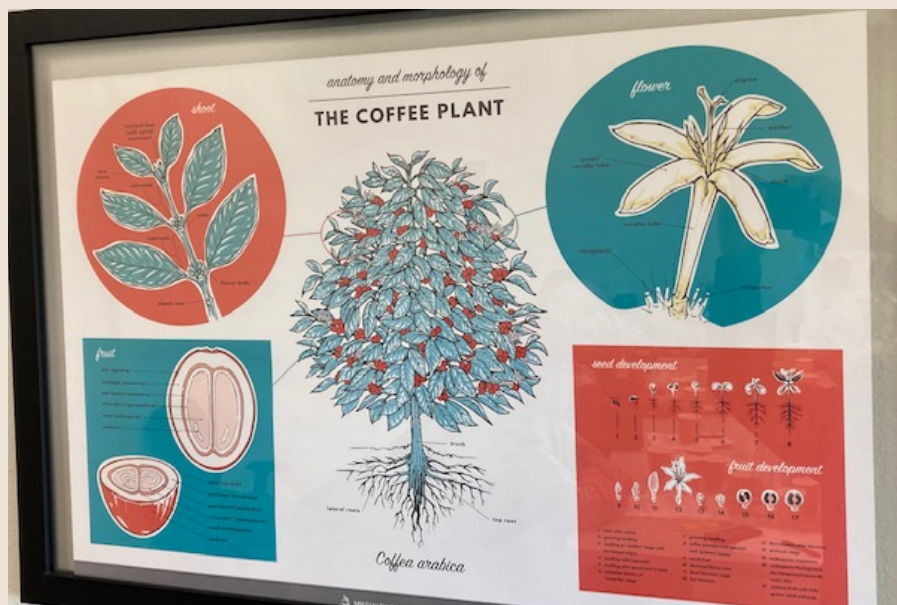
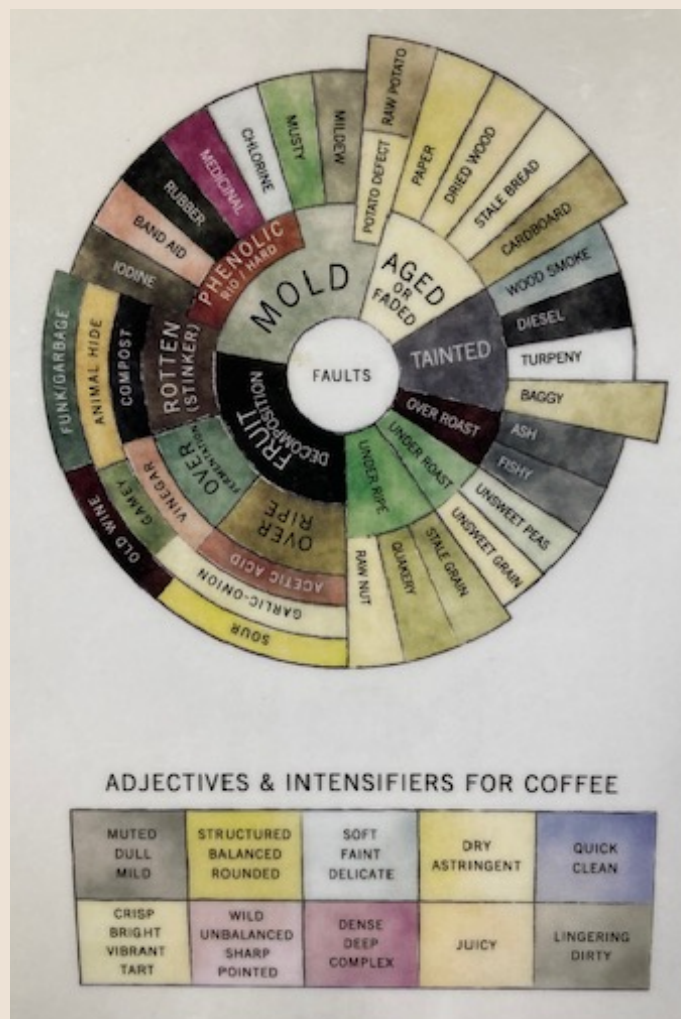


We took this trip to give our board members and other friends helping sell our coffee a better understanding of all aspects of coffee production. We hope this greater understanding of the process will help them to increase our market by sharing that knowledge with our customers.



Coffee Cupping. A major portion of the visit was learning about the various elements related to coffee tasting. Many in the group did not fully realize that coffee is graded in a system very similar to wine tasting.

We were provided with charts to help us recognize various flavors which may be present—they may be caused by the soil, local vegetation in the coffee fields, etc.





Our coffee has traditionally been graded as premium, but now we understand much more about why and how this occurs consistently.

Roasting. In addition to learning how coffee is graded and all the various elements of that process, we also took a tour of the facility. Naturally the main attraction was the actual coffee roaster. There we learned about how various styles of coffee require variations of roasting time and other conditions.



The participants declared the visit a success and even spoke of arranging a similar visit for interested parties in the local area.

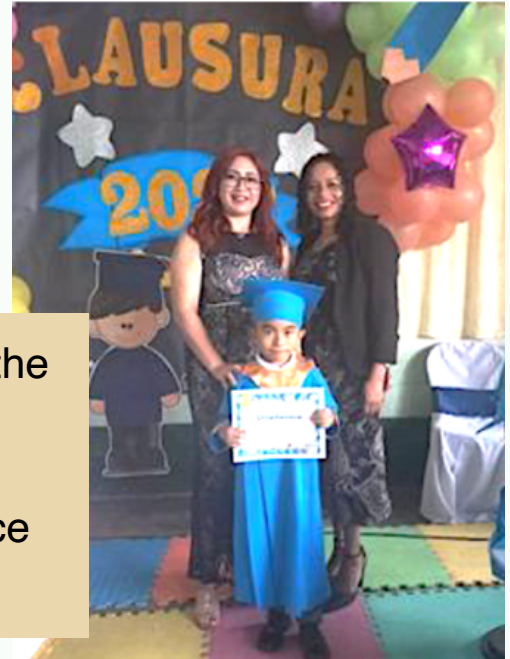


Our Celebrations

Graduations

In Guatemala, graduations are celebrated in November, at the end of the school year.

Even the graduations of the youngest Caminando students are celebrated, underlining the importance of education.



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

On the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th, a very important day in Guatemala, people celebrate at church and in their homes. The boys and, occasionally the girls, dress in costumes for the occasion.



Andry, the son of Carlos and Karla, is dressed up as Juan Diego.

La Posada

Re-enacting the Holy Family's search for room in Bethlehem, people assemble, usually at a church, and march together through the streets to host homes, singing traditional songs. In the past, groups in Antigua even carried their marimba with them. At night, many groups carry lanterns in their parade.



Caminando residents clean the chapel to prepare for a Posada visit.



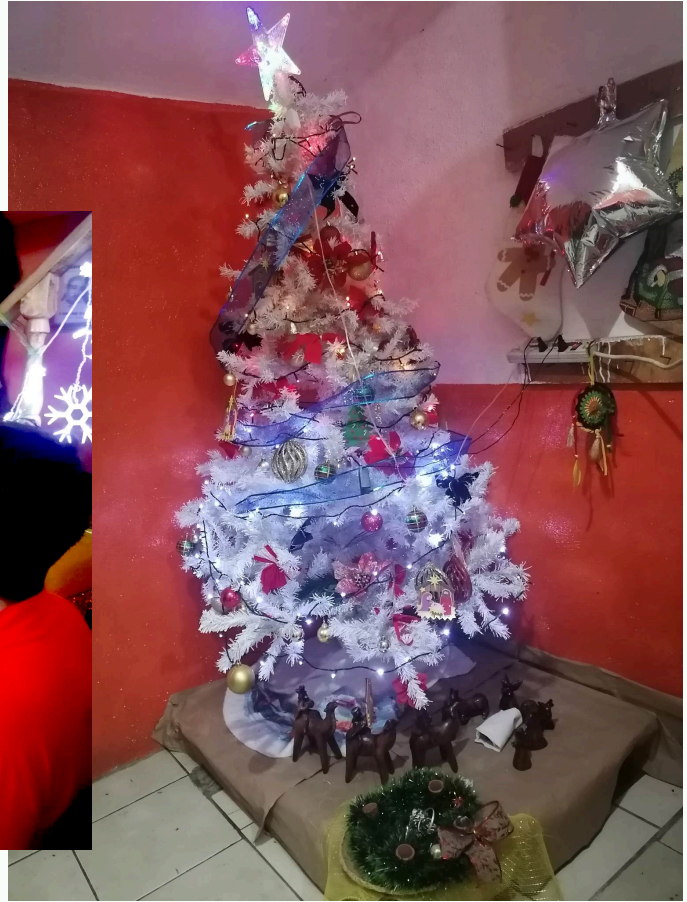
Posada visitors are waiting at the door, singing the traditional song, "My name is Joseph, Mary is my wife.... "



Once the Posada visitors are welcomed into the host home, they typically participate in prayers and enjoy refreshments.

¡Feliz Navidad!

Students enjoyed Caminando's manger scene and Christmas tree.



Meeting with the Maryknoll Affiliates of Guatemala



This year, to honor one of our founders, the Guatemala Affiliates changed our chapter's name from the Guatemala

Chapter to the Connie Pospisil, MM, Chapter. She was serving in Guatemala when she died in 2020 and had initiated the group with Father Tom.

Our children played on Rosa's lawn as we celebrated our Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter's annual Christmas breakfast.



Be a part of our mission!



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