



W. 505 St. Thomas More Way
Spokane, WA 99208

Family to Family

Familia-A-Familia Newsletter

February 2008

Wants vs. Needs: Guatemala Style

With our economy in a downturn, and many people feeling the pain of cold weather and higher prices, it may be a good time to reflect upon the distinction between wants and needs. The impact of the home mortgage crisis, along with increased costs of food, gasoline, and other essentials, is certainly touching most of us in an unpleasant way. These realities are putting a “crimp” into the lifestyle of things we like (and want) to do.

Although the hardship of a slowing economy is very real, it does give us an opportunity to distinguish between our “wants” and our “needs.” We need food, shelter, and clothing --- and under our constitution we have the right to seek life, liberty, and happiness. We don’t really “need” the extra cars, TV’s and nights out that we enjoy, but we have a right to pursue some of those things that make us happy.

So where should we draw the line between wants and needs? When the rich man approached Jesus to learn what he had to do to gain eternal life, Jesus told him to keep the commandments. The man responded that he already did that, so what more must he do? Jesus told him to sell what he had, and give the money to the poor --- words that might be taken to mean sell the things you “want” so the poor can have what they “need.”

Your generosity to the poor in Guatemala demonstrates your commitment to putting other’s needs before your own wants. Moreover, this trait is very likely evidenced in other ways, for there are many charitable/service organizations deserving of our time, talent, and treasure. So we have to make considered judgments in the use of our resources. The important thing is to continue to perfect ourselves by moving in the direction of helping others in need.

FAF Memorials

Please remember the following, who have been honored with a memorial donation to FAF:

Harman Wolfe (from Con & Kay Warren)

Edgar & Mary Lewey (from Mary Host)

Julie Nicholson Keener and John Monks (from Mary Nicholson)

And in thanksgiving for:

Successful surgery for Colleen Dodroe (from Joan Caldwell)

Christmas Gifts to Guatemalan Families

Oops --- In the December newsletter, we neglected to remind sponsors of the gift they usually give to their families at Christmas time. Fortunately, many long-time sponsors remembered, and sent in the additional \$15. Some even sent in extra! Natalia reported that the families had a wonderful time and that some of the families even provided spontaneous entertainment.

Adela Tambriz (program manager in Guatemala) reported that well over a hundred families on the FAF program received their much appreciated Christmas gift. The family kit included a pot & serving spoon, 4 plates, 4 spoons, and a one liter coffee pot. Families on the Family Assistance Program received some cereals, a coffee pot, and a warm blanket.

For sponsors who may want to send in the additional \$15 with their next payment, please make a note to our accountant that the extra \$15 is for the Christmas gift that went to their family. [Terry always appreciates a note about any extra funds, e.g. housing needs, that are included with regular payments. This helps her to distinguish extra from regular payments.]

Very Professional Weavings

Sponsors who have examined some of the woven goods produced by our FAF families in Guatemala know how their weaving expertise has improved. Many of the products are now of top quality, worthy of sale in the best stores in the country. Our challenge is finding markets. Recent sales in Spokane at St. Thomas More, St. Mary, and Assumption Parishes have brought in some funds, but more outlets are needed. Devtan Trading Co. (in Northtown) which pays fair market prices and markets goods from 3rd world countries, is now displaying some of the scarves and bookmarks produced by women on the FAF program.

Spokane - Guatemala Travelers

Several members of the Guatemala Mission Commission visited Guatemala recently. Some worked on clinic-related activities; others visited an elementary school, seminary, radio station, and other projects funded by the Diocese of Spokane. Dave Dodroe, who is managing construction of the FAF bakery and training center, returned to Guatemala after being home over Christmas due to an illness in the family. Lucy Carlson, who has been helping several women of the Ixtahuacan area to develop baking skills, also returned in January.

Dorothy Rebholtz, of Boise, delivered 55,800 trout eggs to Guatemala in December. The Spokane Transportation Security Agency (TSA) had been prepared to handle inspection of the egg carrier and the (nonchlorinated) ice. However, Dorothy had to change terminals in Los Angeles. The TSA people in L.A. were not as accommodating. She had to remove and replace the eggs, and the ice covering them. Nevertheless, all survived the trip in good shape.