



On the road as San Andrés is coming into view

August, 2010

Dear Friends:

The August trip to Guatemala started with Father Santos, previous pastor of San Andrés, meeting our group at the airport and taking us on a walking tour of Guatemala City. The next morning Santos drove us to Santa Cruz where we picked up a car to make the journey to San Andrés.



Math Class taught by Manuel Mejia Sam

Our group consisted of Maggie and Greg Dixon, Vicki Nelson, and Bruce Martin. The last time Greg and Maggie had been to San Andrés was over eight years ago so it was a great experience to see the progress that has been made at the school.



Students and teacher, Angelina Ortiz Tzoc, preparing for Exams



Vicki with the student she sponsors

The school continues to thrive, with 184 students enrolled this year. In addition we have 26 high school scholarship recipients and three students now studying at the University.

Sister Anna and the teachers made our visit to San Andrés very special: we visited classrooms, saw students and teachers in action, and ate a wonderful dinner hosted by the staff.



Bruce making tortillas

Anna also arranged for us to visit and eat lunch with the family of one of our scholarship recipients. We had a wonderful time with this large extended family and also learned that making tortillas was most certainly an art.



Family of our student

During our visit Bruce received the good news that his grant request to the Raskob Foundation was approved and the Derr Foundation has been awarded \$8400.00 to purchase new computers, printers and software to upgrade and enhance the Computer Lab. With the help of Marcial Otiz Tzoc, one of our teachers, the lab will be upgraded and running for the 2011 school year.



New student bathrooms almost completed. A new awning over the kitchen area, so the cooks stay dry, is in the works.



Sister Anna eating ice cream with teachers, Marcial Ortiz Tzoc and Manuel Mejia Sam, at the dinner we had with the staff.

After being in San Andrés for three years, Sister Anna will return to the United States in September for a required renewal period and then on to the Philippines to spend the holidays with her family. She sends all of you her prayers and best wishes and will be back in San Andrés at the beginning of the New Year.



Visiting the Internado

In Chichicastenango we visited the Internado and met with the forty young women from the San Andrés area who are sponsored by the Foundation. The girls seem to be flourishing under the loving tutelage of The Dominican Sisters who were most gracious to us during our stay with them. Sister Anna visits them every other Sunday.

We continued to Chajul where Father Santos is now the pastor in a church in the northern highlands. Thanks to Father Santos' kindness and Sister Bernice Kita's generosity, we had use of Bernice's car on our trip through out Guatemala – we were very grateful. Sister Bernice, a Maryknoll missionary in Guatemala for many years and the author of *What Prize Awaits: Letters from Guatemala*, is presently recuperating from a broken femur at the motherhouse in Maryknoll, NY and hopes to be able to return to Chajul shortly.



Having lunch with Father Santos

Your continued help has made the school and the affiliated programs the success that they are today. We thank you for your continuing support and would ask that, if possible, you bring the San Andrés and Celeste Derr Foundation story to your friends. One of the messages you can tell your friends is that the foundation has no operating expenses (not even postage) - so every dollar you give goes directly to the students.

The link below has pictures of our visit. (The last photo is Sister Estefana Tix Yac, a graduate of our program who now runs the Dominican school in Chichi that our Internado students attend.)

One final note: If you use email and will give us your email address it would make communication easier and less expensive. Just email your email address to one of us at the email address listed below next to our names.

Thank you again for your support

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