

MISSION OUTREACH

St Frances Cabrini, Granbury, TX
St Rose of Lima, Glen Rose, TX

NEWSLETTER

June 2010
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Major Crisis in Guatemala!

Guatemala is surrounded by Mexico, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador.

On May 27th the Volcano Pacaya erupted raining ash down on nearby villages. Guatemala City Airport situated 15 miles to the north of the volcano was covered in 3 to 4 inches of ash closing the airport.

On May 29th Cleanup efforts became complicated as Tropical Storm Agatha which came ashore at the Mexico Guatemala border.

Agatha dumped heavy rain as she moved slowly across Central America. All of Central America was inundated. In Guatemala more than 180 lives were lost and at least 103 are still missing. More than 110,000 people are homeless.

Landslides buried dozens of Mayan Indian homes in the Department of Chimaltenango - a province 40 miles west of Guatemala City where our mission in Patzún is located. All road access and bridges in and out of Patzún are washed out. The Mission area is cut off from travel to the City indefinitely. Major roads and bridges around Guatemala City which were washed away will be rebuilt far ahead of any roads off the main highways.

We cannot begin to imagine the extent of the devastation. Homes are destroyed and no shelter is available. Food supplies and clothing are washed away. Crops are destroyed and seed to replant may not be available. Water is polluted and everything is covered with mud.



Picture from Madre Ana Maria shows the road washed out near Patzún

The essentials of life

First - on the list is food for survival. More deaths will occur due to starvation from lack of food. With the entire country in a crisis situation the availability of food is negligible. Where will they get food when roads are washed away and impassable?

Second - Clean drinking water is unavailable.

Third - Shelter where will the survivors stay? There are no shelters in the rural areas. It gets very cold in the highland mountains at night. They need blankets to stay warm.

Fourth - After the mud is cleared away they will need seed to replant their crops. They are a people of agriculture - Farmers - it is all they know.

Fifth - above all, Madre Ana Maria needs money to help them receive these essentials of life.

Food water blankets & seed

Five years ago Hurricane Stan hit Guatemala with less impact than Agatha. With roads to the City impassable it will be very difficult to provide supplies to the mission.

Please pray they find a way to purchase food, formula, clean water, clothing, blankets and seed to help give the people of our mission a new beginning.

“Mission Outreach” Will my donation help?

Yes, definitely and in ways none of us will ever know exactly how or to what extent your contributions will have helped.

Our “Mission Outreach” has done wondrous things for our Mission Partner in Patzún Guatemala.

Madre Ana Maria is very frugal and wise in her judgments on how to make the best use of the money we send to her. Whenever possible she will pinch a coin so tight it will make the Quetzal bird on their coin squawk very loudly while she makes it spend twice.

Help make your Dollar holler and give generously to “Mission Outreach” for our Mission partner in Guatemala. Life itself hangs in the balance.

What would you do?

We cannot begin to imagine what it might be like to be in a situation like this. This is not just a local area affected by this disaster it is the entire country of Guatemala and its surrounding countries. This area was destroyed only five years ago by Hurricane Stan. Now they face worse destruction than ever before.

Is it any wonder why they are such a poor country? With destruction like this on a regular basis how can anyone get ahead? They are hard working Mayan people who are forced to remain poor by Mother Nature. With respect to material things they don't have much to lose. A roof over their head is generally nothing more than a tin roof with mud or board walls and a dirt floor. Simply put it is nothing more than a shelter from the elements to one degree or another. Water is obtained from a local well. Their diet consists mainly of a form of corn tortilla made from dry corn that is ground daily. With their crops gone and the dried corn supply drenched in muddy water from the storm what will they have to eat now? Many will starve. This crisis isn't over yet!

In a dire situation like this and no infrastructure in place to get help. What would you do? Where would you go? Is there a reasonable way to remedy this kind of poverty? Some of them try to find their way to the USA. Just as we don't like the illegal's crossing our borders from Mexico, Mexico does not like illegal's crossing their border from Guatemala. To get the paperwork necessary to come here legally takes time and money they don't have available on their side when survival itself is so urgent. No I'm not encouraging anyone to come here illegally because the only way to come here and stay is to do it legally. But what might you do in this same desperate situation? What would you do to bring your family to a place where they might simply have a chance for survival? It's a very difficult situation they face and it's not their fault. It seems the Mayan people are born to take one step forward and five steps backward. They are a people of Faith, Hope and Determination. Just to survive they need our help!!

The infant mortality rate is high as only something like one in five will survive to their fifth birthday. With disasters like this the adult mortality rate is also high. The death toll is high but will go higher before it's over. I strongly encourage you to give generously in your Monthly "Mission Outreach" envelopes. It helps the people of our mission much more than you might imagine possible.

Medical Mission Trip Cancelled

Our Medical group numbered eleven. Everyone was packed and ready to go when we got word of the Volcano eruption closing the Airport in Guatemala City. The rest is history. The airport was unable to reopen for our flight date and our fares will be refunded by the airline. We prayed for safety in our travels and God indeed provided us with his Grace and watched over us well. God was truly good to us and has great things for us to do in the days to come.

What becomes of the Medical supplies?

The only way to get the supplies we've collected to the mission is to take them down there. These supplies will remain packed and stored. It may be a while though as very hard and difficult times are anticipated for cleanup and restoration of the area. It could possibly be a year or more but whenever Madre Ana Maria lets us know that roads are open and it is safe to travel we will go with bags in hand to deliver them personally.

We have communications with Madre as she still has electricity and the internet at the convent allowing her to send and receive e-mail. Father Juan has also been able to communicate with her by phone. This also means Madre Ana Maria has communications with her Provincial house in Guatemala City.

We are called to evangelize! "Preach the Gospel use words if necessary" St Francis of Assisi

Please remember the people of Guatemala in your prayers. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Carmelite Missionary Sisters of St Teresa of the Child Jesus, our Parish Mission Partner in Guatemala.

Matiox Chawe!
