

MISSION OUTREACH

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

NEWSLETTER

February 2010
Editor - Vivian Schnick

*Calling Doctors in all
practices of medicine
& Nurses to volunteer*

*Medical Mission
June 1st to 5th*

Depart on Tuesday, return Saturday

Madre Ana Maria has requested that we come to the Mission this year with a Medical Team to administer to the indigenous Mayan of the area.

Professionals in all areas of medicine from the eyes to the feet and everything in between are needed. Nurses are a great asset to the doctors and as individuals. Mission trip is open to all doctors and nurses in our community. Although Medical professionals are preferred anyone can be of assistance. Medical clinics will be arranged by Madre Ana Maria at the Convent and the School in El Sitio.

Are you a dentist? A dental chair is available at the Convent Clinic.

A current Passport is required and may be obtained either at the Hood County Court House or Acton Branch of the Post Office.

Immunizations not required for entry to Guatemala but highly recommended are Hep A and current Typhoid and Tetanus. The Mission is in the Highlands where the altitude (8,000 ft) does not present a problem with Malaria. Airline tickets vary in prices and cannot be determined at this time. We will all travel together and be picked up at Guatemala City Airport by transportation provided directly

from the Carmelite Convent. We will stay in the new Dormitory (individual private locked rooms) built by our Mission Outreach funds donated by St Frances Cabrini and St Rose of Lima Parishes. Our meals and transportation will also be provided by the Convent.

Bilingual is handy but Spanish is not required as we will have an interpreter with us.

A non refundable deposit of \$125.00 is required to hold your spot in the Dormitory.

*To volunteer for our
Medical Mission*

Contact Mission Council members:

Ruben Garcia phone 817-408-0544

E-mail rgarcia8691@charter.net or

Vivian Schnick phone 817-326-8340

E-mail vivian@schnick.net

*Our Third World
Mission Partner is
a few hours away*

Our Mission Partnership is with the Carmelite Sisters of St Teresa and the Child Jesus at the Convent of Elias the Prophet located in the Guatemalan Highlands. Patzun is a short distance from beautiful Lake Atitlan and is approximately an hour or so west of Guatemala City airport.

The views as you travel are absolutely beautiful with farm fields that appear as patchwork quilts all across the mountainous countryside. June is in the rainy season and the

foliage is abundant. The roads from Guatemala City to Patzun are paved. However the dirt roads in the mission area naturally tend to be full of potholes during this season of the year.

Typically villagers live in a one room house with dirt floors and walls made of mud and sticks covered with a tin roof. Some are one or two rooms made of cinder blocks with a concrete floor and covered with a tin roof. They may have electricity but none have running water. Necessary facilities are usually a three or more family outhouse type of structure generally located nearby. Lack of personal bathing is a problem. The dust depletes their skin of moisture creating a host of sores and other skin problems

The men and boys work their fields with one tool that is both their shovel, hoe and whatever else they can manipulate with it. It appears as a very large hoe to us. When harvest time and spring planting come they use a machete to cut down the foliage. Machinery is impractical to work the steep mountainous hillsides. Even while working on foot, a person could literally 'fall off the farm' as someone once said.

The women and girls attend to domestic activities of fetching water in a jar from a public well and preparing the meal of the day. A very typical meal is nothing more than their own hand ground corn tortillas and black beans if they can afford them. Meat, usually chicken when available, is a rare commodity in their diet.

The women wash their hair in streams or laundry facilities where they hand wash their clothes. Clothes are laid on the ground or bushes if available for drying. A clothesline may be available near a home. They also weave their own fabric for their beautiful blouses and skirts. Blouses are then hand embroidered in a style passed down from mother to daughter. Their clothing can be

'read' by other Mayan villages letting them know where they are from. Each district has a different Mayan dialect and therefore each has a different color and design in their clothing. There are approximately 21 different dialects. Many Mayan are learning Spanish in order to have a common language for communication.

If a child is fortunate to attend the Carmelite school in El Sitio they attend on a scholarship. A short nine years ago the grades at the school went only to the 4th grade and now through your donations are available through 12th grade. The school hours are during the morning until noon to enable the children to be home to work in the fields or work in the home in the afternoon. The school year begins in January and runs through October. A note of interest: Public schools only go as far as the third or fourth grade.

In the early years of our mission partnership, we saw children playing simple games at the school like jacks, jump rope and marbles. Now the school has a sports field for more physical activities. You will seldom if ever see any toys for them to play with outside of school. Toys in the homes are virtually nonexistent. In the many years that this writer has been to the Mission only once did I see a little girl with a doll.

Financial Support for Novice

A young Novice currently living at the convent needed a scholarship to complete her studies. The amount required is \$1,400.00. Mission Council voted to approve the scholarship request.

In the past we supported a bookkeeper at the convent to finish his studies to become an accountant. He no longer needs financial help.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Mission Partner in Guatemala.

Matiox Chawe!

Mayan for thank you very much
