



Progresa

Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program



Spring Update - May 2015

NEWS FROM GUATEMALA

We have lots of news, but first we would like to begin with a warm welcome to our new treasurer, Tim Thresh. Tim is a retired accountant whose wife is a member of Redwood Forest Friends Meeting. We were extremely grateful that when we began to look for a new treasurer Tim stepped up to the plate as a volunteer. Not only is he highly qualified, he lives near Santa Rosa which makes everything easier. We are already working with him but look forward to meeting him in person this summer when both Miguel and Martha will attend Pacific Yearly Meeting and spend a few days in Santa Rosa. Some of you don't know that Donna Lee, who took over as treasurer when Monique Lusse retired last year, became seriously ill only a few months after she began. In spite of her failing health she valiantly kept our books through November but finally had to resign. We also want to thank Donna for all she did. We have been holding her in the light and are happy to report that her health has improved somewhat.

THE WEDDING

The most exciting event for all of us here in Parramos was the wedding of Jaime Torres, our accountant, and Flor Chavez Car on April 12th. We were all present to help them celebrate along with several hundred other friends and family. After a long engagement we were delighted to see Jaime take the marital plunge. We wish him and Flor a long and happy union. Honeymoon trips are not common in Guatemala, but Guatemalan labor law provides newly married workers with five vacation days which Jaime used to set up their new home in Parramos.



Flor and Jaime with our staff: Martha, Yesika and Miguel



View of the added area of the office.

THE CONSTRUCTION

For several years we have had leaks in the ceiling over the office and bedroom areas of our office building, and it was time to replace the roof before the start of the new rainy season. While the entire area was torn apart we decided to upgrade the electricity, water system, and bathroom as well. Victor Choy, one of our own engineering graduates, did the plans for us and supervised the construction which began in early Feb-

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ruary as soon as we had finished with Teaching English and registering all of our students for the 2015 school year. Victor and his workers stayed close to schedule and finished in early April. Victor gave us a good price and the construction costs came in at only \$11,500. We are spending a little more to finish the varnishing, painting, replacing screens and buying towel racks for the bathroom. It looks great and we encourage you to visit. (See guest room below).

THE GUEST ROOM

With the new construction, we now have a guest room. Our new bathroom and ability to provide hot running water, plus the use of our kitchen facilities makes this an attractive option for Quakers and others who would like to experience village living. We plan to keep the rental cost low especially for visiting Quakers, so we hope some of you will decide to visit us in Parramos which is only a 30 minute bus ride from Antigua. Right now we would especially like to ask for the help of anyone who would be interested in repairing or newly creating the garden area which has been somewhat neglected since Loren's death.



Yesika showing the bedroom



View of the kitchen

MIGUEL'S TRIP

The Latin American Concerns Committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting has once again offered Miguel Costop a travel grant in order to participate in this year's annual session. Miguel has prepared a program regarding Quakerism and Mayan Spirituality which he is looking forward to sharing. Since Friends General Conference is being held only one week before PYM we decided to extend his trip in order to include a visit to FGC. He plans to be available to speak to the high school gathering and young Friends as well as present during the afternoon sessions for Quaker organizations. Since our first Work Tour for Young Friends was so successful, Miguel would love to speak to any groups interested in planning a similar trip to Guatemala.



THE 30th ANNUAL STUDENT CONFERENCE (May 2-3, 2015)

By Jane Snyder

This year's conference was accomplished by "in house" leadership with presentations by former scholarship recipients (exbecarios) and board members. On Saturday, former student and ethnic Kaqchikel, Doris Martinez (now a psychologist), gave an impressive motivational talk on perseverance. Victor Manuel, ethnic Kaqchikel, (now a civil engineer), made a presentation on being an agent of change. Astrid Garcia, ethnic Q'eqchi, now a supervisory nurse, shared the experience of her career development emphasizing the important role played by her community service project.



Doris, Victor and Astrid

Since this is an election year in Guatemala one of the group projects was a discussion of the positive and undesirable traits of a good politician. Many of the women students also commented on the special obstacles which are faced by women. Other

group experiences involved planning for presentations during the “cultural night” and a competition to answer questions in a TV type knock-off of Jeopardy.

During the “cultural night” each small group presented a song or a skit. Some skits were delightful mockeries of political speeches. Individual students were also invited to perform. Odilio Cruz Pablo, ethnic Mam agronomy student, sang a song urging better stewardship of the earth and its resources. Noé Tiul Ico, accounting student from the Q’eqchi ethnic group, recited a poem inspiring listeners to stop and

pay attention to the earth and the uses of its resources. Some of the poem's content was from the ancient Mayan creation text, the Popul Vuh.

On Sunday this year’s program theme was, “Who are the Quakers”? Miguel Costop shared how his exposure to Quaker process and values had enriched his Franciscan faith. Eleazar Monroy, of the Evangelical Friends Church in Ipula, Guatemala told the story of George Fox and his openings. Jane Snyder of North Pacific Yearly Meeting followed with an explanation of the different expressions of Quakerism. Joe Snyder of North Pacific Yearly Meeting presented a fuller explanation of the worship and testimonies of unprogrammed Friends. Martha Dugan of Guatemala Friends Meeting introduced the small group activity which involved worship sharing groups and the practice of responding to queries. Donna Smith of Pacific Yearly Meeting welcomed the students to a Meeting for Worship. At the close of meeting everyone was invited to share “afterthoughts”, ideas or feelings not shared during Meeting for Worship. A number of scholarship students felt moved to share their thoughts.

Once again it was inspiring to experience the incredible dedication of the scholarship recipients and to see them assuming strong positive roles to improve the future of Guatemala.



Group of participants in our Annual Student Conference

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT.

Ticleón Manuel Aguirre is in his fifth year of law at the national university in Guatemala City. His community service project in 2014 was entitled “Learning My Rights”. The project included both primary school students from his home community of Aldea Los Molinos, San Rafael la In-

dependencia in the department of Huehuetenango and high school students from the municipality of San Rafael la Independencia. At both levels his classes included information about the many different types of law that affect children in Guatemala. On the first day the classes on both levels examined the Guatemalan constitution. The second day focused on social and cultural customs, so called “Mayan law” or “social law,” and their relationship to the actual laws of

Guatemala. The third day addressed the Convenio 169 and examined the present day social conflicts which have grown out of the government's failure to comply with this important document which grants a variety of "consultation rights" to local communities over their lands and natural resources. On day four the students were introduced to the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights". They learned about the origin of this listing of human rights and how these rights apply to the rural areas of Guatemala where poverty impacts on such basic rights as liberty and equality. The final day was devoted to analysis, reflection and sharing about the information presented.



worked with the primary school students. Even though he used the same words to describe the material he covered with the primary school students, Ticleón made it clear that his teaching methods were quite different. With the young students he used games and activities to teach the basic concepts and indoctrinate them with a respect for the law and an awareness of the "rights of children".

In the afternoons he worked with students who were studying to become teachers. Ticleón reported that he especially loved working with these high school students

who will in turn be teaching others. With the older students more analysis and discussion was possible. It was clear that the laws and rights played an important role in their everyday lives. On the final day he was pleased that the students demonstrated their understanding of the different concepts and asked many relevant questions.

Ticleón completed his community service project in five long days. From 7:30 to 11:30 each morning he

JOIN US IN OUR TEACHING ENGLISH EXPERIENCE
January 3rd through January 11th, 2016

The Teaching English Experience in the beautiful gardens of Posada Belen is a soul-satisfying week of hard work which is both fun and rewarding. The only requirements are an open heart, patience and a desire to help a Guatemalan student. The ability to speak Spanish and previous teaching experience are helpful but not necessary.

The cost for the week is \$950 which includes room and board for you and your student. Reserve your space by sending a check for \$300 to the address below. Be sure to write "Teaching English" in the memo section of your check. For more information email:

progres3@gmail.com or visit our website:
www.guatemalafriends.org/the-teaching-english-experience



THANKS FOR YOUR DONATION!

All the students, staff and volunteers of Progres3 thank all our faithful donors who make this work possible. If you want to help provide educational opportunities to poor Guatemalans, please make a donation to: **Redwood Forest Friends Meeting** and write in the memo of your check "Guatemala Scholarship Program"

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

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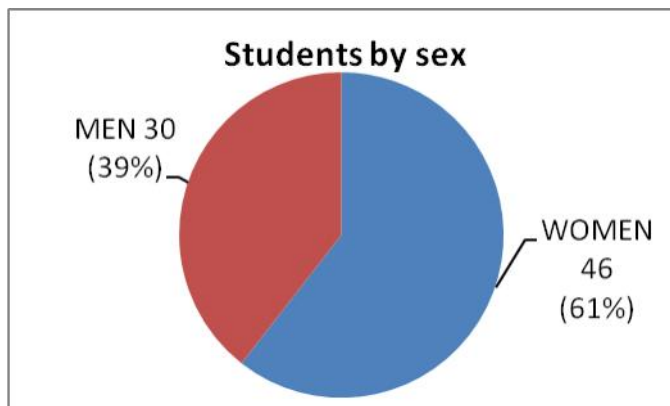
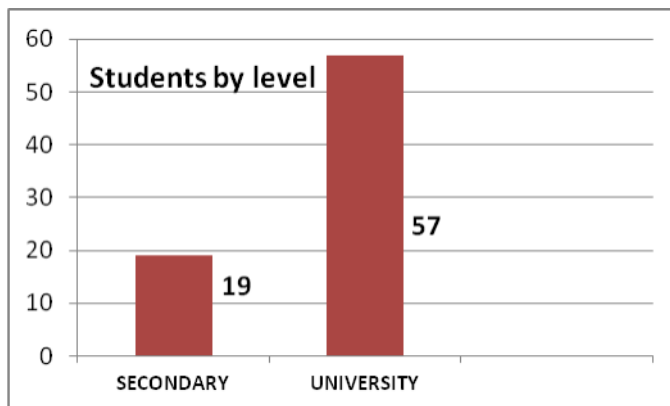
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STUDENT ROSTER 2015 – GUATEMALA FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Career	Names	Age	Ethnic	Career	Names	Age	Ethnic
UNIVERSITY LEVEL							
Secondary teaching (3 years)				Specialization in education (5 years)			
1	Domingo Ixquiactap Perechú	27	K'iche'	1	Marcos F. Méndoza Sancoy	28	Kaqchikel
2	Roselia Sisimit López	30	Kaqchikel	2	Ofelia Paáu Tzí	27	Q'eqchi'
3	Yesika María Tucubal Sanahí	21	Kaqchikel	Agronomy (5 years)			
4	Marta Reina Sanic Botones	21	Kaqchikel	1	Antonio Carrillo Puac	25	K'iche'
5	Aurelio Rodríguez Sajché	23	Kaqchikel	2	Chistin Deyvi Tojin Ortiz	19	K'iche'
6	Elsa Ofelia Yojero Estepán	27	Kaqchikel	Civil engineering			
7	Hilario Tiul Coy	29	Q'eqchi'	1	Diego Pastor Sarat	20	K'iche'
8	Erika Roxana Ixcotoyac Uz	20	K'iche'	2	José Alejandro Pérez Tzaj	24	K'iche'
9	María Yolanda Cuy Chom	22	Kaqchikel	International relations(5 years)			
1				1	Iris Angélica Ajú Cholotío	22	K'iche'
0	Sandra Isabel Bocel Yaxón	22	Kaqchikel	2	Ana Matías Felipe	27	Poptí
1				English-special course (3 years)			
1	Maydy Hernández Santos	20	Kaqchikel	1	Alejandro Ramiro Chan Saquic	30	K'iche'
Nursing Professional RN (3 years)				Physiotherapy (5 years)			
1	Concepción Damián Chicajau	19	Tz'utujil	1	Yessenia Maldonado León	19	Español
2	Marta Batén Ramos	32	K'iche'	Forestry (5 years)			
3	Miriam Aracely Joj Ajvix	20	Kaqchikel	1	Sandra Gabriela López López	23	K'iche'
4	Susana Magda Choc Juc	29	Q'eqchi'	Systems engineering (5 years)			
5	Luciana Telón Chutá	23	Kaqchikel	1	Elizabeth Guadalupe Ruiz Erazo	20	Español
6	Luz Ángelica Castro	21	Q'eqchi'	SECONDARY LEVEL			
7	Sandra Carolina Figueroa Tzul	22	Español	Pre-primary teaching (3 years)			
8	Lidia Esperanza Chutá López	26	Kaqchikel	1	Dora Elisa Sajbochol Sajbochol	18	Kaqchikel
9	Ana Valeska Mateo Nicolás	29	Q'anjob'al	2	Gladys Sajbochol Curruchiche	19	Kaqchikel
Medicine (6 years)				3	Lilibeth Basilia Ajxup Lajpop	17	K'iche'
1	Abdias Isaí Rodríguez Jocol	22	K'iche'	4	Yoselin Cordero Quintanilla	18	Español
2	Ana Lucía Meza López	18	Español	Agriculture technicians (3 years)			
3	Aura Azucena Barreno Méndez	23	Español	1	Genaro Lem Cac	23	Poqomchi'
4	Krista Valeria Ajanel Jeronimo	17	Q'eqchi'	2	Odilio Cruz Pablo	20	Mam
5	Natividad María Cojtí Serech	18	Kaqchikel	3	Pedro Rolando Félix Francisco	25	Akateko
6	Robson Federico López Castro	26	K'iche'	Bookkeeping (3 years)			
7	Victor Manuel Yacón Pichol	23	K'iche'	1	Dina Yamilet López Beletzuy	18	K'iche'
8	Yóscelin Hernández Delgado	21	Poptí	2	Noe Tiul Ico	20	Q'eqchi'
Law (5 years)				Computers (3 years)			
1	Deker Eleazar Quiacaín Pop	22	Tz'utujil	1	Walter Pérez de León	23	Mam
2	Deysi Leticia Esquit Miculax	26	Kaqchikel	Building drawing (3 years)			
3	Jacinto Fernando Bernal López	29	Ixil	1	Abner Daniel Aguilar	21	Q'eqchi'
4	Paulina Elizabeth Pop Sequec	26	Tz'utujil	Electricity (3 years)			
5	Sacarías Silitaí Vásquez Jiménez	25	Mam	1	José H. Ramírez Jiménez	20	Mam
6	Santos David Villatoro Villatoro	26	Español	Electronics (3 years)			
7	Ticleón Manuel Aguirre	24	Akateko	1	Oseas Abimael Arias Torres	18	Español
Business administration (5 years)				Vocational nursing (1 year)			
1	Enrique Bala García	26	Kaqchikel	1	Delia Orfelina Morales Salazar	30	Kaqchikel
2	Leonardo Chub Coc	24	Q'eqchi'	Education for the home (4 years)			
3	Mayra M. Reanda Tacaxoy	20	Tz'utujil	1	Nancy Guadalupe Tucubal Yoc	22	Kaqchikel
4	Milton Rocacl Manchamé Arrollo	24	Español	Music (2 years)			
5	Oscar René Och Tut	34	Q'eqchi'	1	Sonia Isabel Morales Roquel	17	Español
Social work (5 years)				Students under special memorial fund			
1	Angela Karina Sic López	25	K'iche'	1	Margarita López García	16	Kaqchikel
2	Gilda Mariela Hernández Miculax	25	Kaqchikel	2	Isabel López García	18	Kaqchikel
3	Mario Mendoza López	26	Poqomchi'	3	Jasmin Mishel López García	13	Kaqchikel
Psychology (5 years)							
1	María Chiviliu Ajtupal	19	Tz'utujil				
2	Mildre Mabeli De León Cano	21	Español				

Some interesting information about our group of students in 2015

We started the 2015 school year (late January to November in most universities) with **76 students**. Although some of the students will enter or re-enter our program in June they are listed here as part of the entire group. See the following graphs and tables with the most important characteristics of our students.



We have 19 students in the secondary level and 57 at the university. This is the second year that we have more women than men in our program. As the graph shows, we have 46 women and 30 men. For several years, we have been encouraging more women to apply since they face more difficulties in continuing their studies at a higher level.

The most popular majors at the university level are: Secondary teaching with 11 students, Professional Nursing RN 9, Medicine 8, Law 7, and Business Administration 5.

As for the secondary level, this year we have 4 Pre-primary Teaching majors, and 3 agricultural technicians. The rest of the majors have only 1 or 2 students.

Meet one of our students

Luciana Telón Chutá

wants to be a nurse so badly that in 2013 she decided to take a risk and borrow money in order to attend nursing school. She received high grades in all her nursing classes and passing grades in other courses such as Microbiology. Luciana's father was a day laborer who is now deceased. Her mother has struggled to support the family by growing vegetables and raising small animals. Three of Luciana's eight sisters still live at home and contribute what they can to the family income but their combined earnings are little more than \$100 per month. With money so tight her family was not able to help with her schooling.



Last year she applied to PROGRESA for a scholarship but we turned her down. We were afraid that if she continued studying she would never be able to pay off the debt she had incurred in her first year. When she reapplied this year we were happy to learn that instead of borrowing more money last year, she left both her school and her family and went to Guatemala City in order to work as a domestic servant. With her salary, she was able to pay off two thirds of the money she had borrowed and even help her family a little.

We were so impressed with her determination that we accepted her into the program for the 2015 school year. She will receive a combination of scholarship and loan to cover her expenses of \$950. We hope to find this deserving young woman a sponsor and help keep her debt at a minimum.

STUDENTS BY ETHNIC GROUP	
Kaqchikel	23
K'iche'	16
Spanish (not considered indigenous)	11
Q'eqchi'	9
Tz'utujil	5
Mam	4
Poqomchi'	2
Akateko	2
Poptí	2
Q'anjob'al	1
Ixil	1
TOTAL	76