



Not So Far Afield

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL AFFILIATES

January/February 2015

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MY ADVENTURES IN MISSION

Carolyn Trumble – Portland Chapter

From the newsletter of former Maryknoll Lay Missioner Carolyn Trumble, on mission in Brazil as an Affiliate

In June, 2014, I returned to Brazil as a Maryknoll Affiliate. I work at Afya, a Holistic Healing Center in a marginalized neighborhood on the periphery of the city of João Pessoa, Brazil. Afya, run by women from the nearby communities, receives many people from these communities who have suffered daily stress due to domestic and urban violence, extreme poverty, drugs, alcohol abuse, etc. The holistic healing therapies at Afya enhance awareness and wellness for many people.

I am amazed at how many skills and experiences I draw upon as a missioner. I have done accounting, youth ministry, communications, and other mission work. I studied accounting 20 years ago, but I have more experience than others, so I am the bookkeeper.

fortunate to work with women who have so much wisdom and life experience. The story of Maria Ausciliadora—who came to Afya for healing, was transformed, and joined the team at Afya—is amazing.



The Women of Afya at an all-day staff training I helped facilitate.

Maria Ausciliadora came to Afya nine years ago, suffering with severe and frequent epileptic attacks. She was diagnosed with epilepsy when she was 5 years old. Since then, she used medication to try to control the attacks. By age 33, her epileptic attacks occurred so often, twice a week or more—triggered by stressful situations, that she was afraid to leave her house by herself. Ausciliadora lives in a part of João Pessoa with a high incidence of violence, drug use, assaults on buses, etc.

Maria Ausciliadora had chronic muscle tension as well as constantly being angry and irritated. After two years of therapy sessions, she became more playful and started experiencing some moments of relaxation and joyfulness. Her epileptic crises were now fewer. She negotiated with her doctor to reduce and eventually stop her medication. A few years ago, Ausciliadora asked if she could join the team that works at Afya. She wants to help other women who come with similar problems.

If you wish to support Carolyn's efforts, donations can be sent to the Maryknoll Sisters at P.O. Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311, and designated to "Women's Holistic Center, in Brazil and under the care of Sr. Efu Nyaki, MM."



Photos courtesy of Carolyn Trumble

Work day at the health center as we cleaned out the old building behind the women to get ready for it to be torn down in order to begin new construction on a restaurant which will bring healthy food to a poor neighborhood and more income for the women.

We are beginning a construction project, and I am one of the staff responsible for it. I am very grateful for my experiences building a barn with my dad and mixing cement by hand in Mexico. Last week we had a staff training and I drew on communication and youth ministry skills to create teaching dynamics with Sr. Efu Nyaki, MM.

Now as a missioner I am learning even more. I am

LOVE IN ACTION

Love in Action, the theme of the 2015 Western Region Maryknoll Affiliates Conference, is also a fitting theme for this issue of the NSFA. Indeed, *Love in Action* pretty well describes Maryknoll Affiliates and our Four Pillars of Spirituality, Community, Global Vision, and Action. See the love in this issue acting in at least 13 locations in 8 different countries, including Brazil, Tanzania, Oregon, Florida, and Guatemala, and in our reaching out to immigrants.

In the secular news we see that the lack of love leads to violence, torture, fear, exploitation, and discrimination. While most of us experience some level of privilege, we also have occasionally felt fear and discrimination. We know that when violence is an acceptable response, no one is safe.

In *No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*, our Spanish Affiliate newsletter, an Affiliate from Merida, Mexico, Cecilia Quijano asks us to respond with Love and Action to the disappearance of 43 students in Ayotzinapa, Mexico. She says, (translated from the Spanish):

“Prayer has helped us to collect our thoughts and feelings and leads us to act. Small or large, easy or difficult, actions arising from reflection and discernment of the Christian values that we hold will have an impact on building a culture of peace, so necessary for everyone.”



Not So Far Afield is a bimonthly publication of the Maryknoll Affiliates. The name is a play on the title of the original Maryknoll Magazine: *The Field Afar*.

Maryknoll Affiliates are a faith-filled people responding in community to God’s call to participate in Jesus’ mission. We express the Maryknoll Spirit in the context of Chapters which gather for prayer, reflection, and action. We challenge one another to go beyond borders, locally and globally, to walk with the poor and excluded, and to strive for peace and justice for all of God’s creation. We recognize that the Spirit who guides us on our journey moves without boundaries and that God’s unconditional love is present in all cultures and peoples.

Affiliates share in the mission and family spirit of Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners living lives of service around the world. If you would like further information or an opportunity to attend a local chapter meeting in your area, please contact the Executive Coordinator of the Maryknoll Affiliates at P.O. Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311 or e-mail inquiry@maryknollaffiliates.org.

Many Affiliate Chapters collaborate with:

JustFaith Ministries: <http://justfaith.org/>

Pace e Bene: <http://paceebene.org/programs/campaign-nonviolence/>

Pax Christi: <http://paxchristiusa.org>



SAVE THE DATE!

Calling all Affiliates, poets, prophets, and sages to the **Western Regional Affiliate Conference** in Seattle August 7, 8, and 9, 2015, at Seattle University.

Seattle Affiliates are finalizing the planning of the conference. The theme, **“Love in Action, Mission on the Margins,”** will incorporate sessions on poetry, micro-finance, Native American spirituality, immigration, and peace, all with a Northwest flavor. All are invited to join us; we know of folks coming from as far as Africa and Haiti. Registration information will be available soon.

Conference goers will be staying at Seattle University, within walking distance of downtown Seattle. Accommodations can be arranged at the University for those who wish to come early or stay later.



Co-editors: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss & Paula Schaffner

Editorial Board: Kris Neufeld Penny Robinson

David Stocker

We welcome submission of articles by Maryknoll Affiliates and Maryknoll Missioners, as well as suggestions for articles. All submissions are subject to editing. We publish articles as appropriate in conjunction with issue themes.

Articles in *Not So Far Afield* do not represent the opinion of any of the Maryknoll entities.

Please send any letters to the editor, articles, photos or inquiries to the address below. You may also contact us if you no longer wish to receive Affiliate mailings, prefer to receive them by e-mail or read them on the web, or if you have changed your address.

Maryknoll Affiliates, PO Box 311

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AYOTZINAPA

Cecilia Quijano - Regional Coordinator,
Mérida, Yucatán, México

Recently we have heard or read of incredible violence by organizations founded to protect the people: the killing of young black men by police in Ferguson and elsewhere, the militarization of police organizations, a published report the use of torture by the CIA, and the disappearance of 43 students in Mexico. This disturbing pattern of violence has spawned widespread demonstrations and pledges of investigative action. We need to be in solidarity with those who protest against and attempt to remedy this violence.

*This translation of Cecilia Quijano's article in the December, 2014, issue of **No Tan Lejos del Horizonte*** discusses the disappearance of the 43 students.*



Ayotzinapa, a town located in the state of Guerrero, Mexico, was the site of a terrible situation on 26 September. College students who are preparing to become teachers went on tour to raise funds and to attend a commemorative event; however the cause represented a conflict for political interests. Two trucks carrying students were intercepted by local police, who threatened and attacked them, shooting straight at the trucks. Some bystanders were killed and the police took 43 students.

Since then, they have been missing. So far there are different statements, but it is not clear what happened to the students. [A mass grave was found recently.] The attorney general said they were delivered by local police to a criminal group, and it was the group who murdered them.

The situation is painful, frustrating, and serious. Painful because the death and disappearance of

civilians is constant—this incident was just the tip of the iceberg of the serious situation in which we live. It has generated lack of trust in officials at various levels, from local police municipalities to the president of the republic. Many are wondering: To whom can we turn?

Several people have raised their voices demanding that the media disseminate information, but national broadcasters have not shared much news. With alternate means of mass communication such as the Internet and the presence of the foreign press, the tragic event has been reported to the world. Students from other countries and other people outraged by the event have joined the marches, protests, and actions against impunity. Others are demanding that authorities provide answers to the people and urge us as citizens not to tolerate the abuses of power, human rights violations, corruption, and impunity.

We must recognize that this event is not isolated from others. We have found many communal graves, not knowing until now which group is responsible: drug trafficking, criminal groups, or the government? It is difficult to see the difference between them.

In the community of Mérida Affiliates, we share their frustration over the complicity of politicians; we do not want to feed their distrust of authorities nor the insecurity of protesting for their rights. We believe that as Affiliates we can be a support through prayer, learn more about this and similar cases in other countries, and become sensitive to the situation as citizens of the world. Prayer has helped us to collect our thoughts and feelings and leads us to act. Small or large, easy or difficult, actions arising from reflection and discernment of the Christian values that we hold will have an impact on building a culture of peace, so necessary for everyone.



If you would like to practice your Spanish skills, you can read this and insightful articles on various topics in **No Tan Lejos del Horizonte at notanlejosdelhorizontemk.blogspot.com.*





DARING TO DREAM ANEW

John A. Meyer –
Phoenix Chapter,
Maryknoll Affiliate Board
Member

It was an honor and privilege to represent the Maryknoll Affiliates as an observer to the 13th General Chapter of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers held September 2014.


The entire Chapter proceedings were imbued with the spirit of prayer to discern what the Spirit is calling Maryknoll to today in her mission endeavors. Pope Francis, in *The Joy of the Gospel* (#262) states that good discernment requires “*the ability to cultivate an interior space which can give a Christian meaning to commitment and activity.*” The Chapter meetings included an opening Eucharist and retreat, daily Morning Prayer, and a meditation from *The Joy of the Gospel*. Each day closed with a Celebration of the Eucharist and special evening prayer services which recognized the Maryknoll martyrs, Fr. Gerard Donovan martyred in 1938 in China to Sr. Maura Clarke and Sr. Ita Ford martyred in 1990 in El Salvador.

Reports addressed the “State of the Society” and presented four major global trends that impact Maryknoll and mission: 1) We are headed toward a warmer planet, 2) Incredible income inequality persists, 3) Civil society is losing space, and 4) Alternative world-views and approaches are emerging.

Several closed sessions were for the delegates only, including the election of the Superior General, and the rest of the General Council. I was in my room when the Chapel bells began to ring out. At first I thought that was strange, but then it hit me that this is Maryknoll’s customary way to announce a new Superior General. No white smoke like the Vatican announcing a new

pope but the chiming of bells. A delegate shared with me that Fr. Ray Finch from the Latin America Region, (and former Superior General from 1996 to 2002) was the new Superior General. Other leaders elected are: Fr. Joseph M. Everson, III–Vicar General, U.S. Region, Office of Society Personnel, Fr. Russell J. Feldmeier – Assistant General from Asia Region, Korea and Fr. Thomas J. O’Brien – Assistant General from the Asia Region, Vietnam.

In the midst of declining numbers, aging members and diminishing resources, Fr. Emile Dumas challenged us during his homily to look again at Maryknoll’s beginnings. Fr. Price met Fr. Wash at a conference in Montreal, Canada. Together they dreamed about the possibilities of a new mission moment for the American Catholics, a missionary society from the US to other parts of the world. Materially they had nothing but a vision and hope that they would be lead on by the Spirit. Out of that dream great things have happened over the past 103 years. The ‘Good News’ of the Gospel has been brought to all parts of the world by Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers along with the Maryknoll Sisters, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, and Maryknoll Affiliates. Today, we are challenged again to DARE TO DREAM ANEW!

May we dream with one another and Pope Francis: “*I dream of a ‘missionary option’, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.*” (#27) 

ANGELS COME IN ALL SIZES

Dave Schaffner – Affiliate Board Finance Committee

Knock, knock.

Who’s there? – Dave!

Dave who? – Dave Schaffner, the appeal letter guy.

Oh, I got your letter!

... (Where did I put it?)

I’m pleased to say that Maryknoll Affiliates have responded generously to our annual appeals, meeting the goal for the last four years. You should have received your letter in November (also available at <https://notsofarfield.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/nov-2014-appeal-letter.pdf>), opening the Affiliate appeal year, which runs from November 1 to October 31. Our goal this year is \$21,900, to fund the 2015 operating budget. This covers expenses such as travel, printing, and costs of communication. Our



Newly elected leadership (L to R): Russell J. Feldmeier, MM, Thomas J. O’Brien, MM, Raymond J. Finch, MM, and Joseph M. Everson, III, MM

Photos courtesy of Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

partners—Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners—provide the salary and benefits for our Executive Coordinator.

Mid-Year Letter. What about that letter you received last July? For the past several years, we have also been sending a mid-year reminder, in case you had put the November letter in the “to do” slot in your desk, and find many months later (as I often have) that the “to do” was never done. *We encourage you to make your 2015 donation now.* Then, when that letter comes next summer, you can look at it as a “Thank You,” not as a request for a second contribution. Of course, if you choose to contribute again, it will be gratefully accepted.

Periodic Transfers. Many of you have avoided forgetting our appeal in your “to do” slot by arranging for periodic transfers to the Affiliates from your checking account or credit card through the Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers, who handle our account (for which, by the way, we are very thankful). If you haven’t yet donated, the donor form (on which you can request one-time or periodic payments) is available at <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/news/recent-postings/item/1179-appeal-letter-form.html>. Of course we appreciate periodic payments; it helps to know those



funds are coming in regularly, whether monthly, bimonthly, or on some other schedule. These periodic transfers continue until you stop them, saving you the hassle of responding to the appeal in future years. If you wish to

change the account or amount, be sure to contact the Fathers and Brothers directly.

Our Angels. Your support of the Affiliates has been outstanding. Over the past four years, the number of contributors has increased sharply, from 120 to 190 households. In addition to meeting our operational budget goals in recent years, we have carried out special projects such as the MAC 2011 and MAC 2014 Scholarship/Travel Grant programs and our 2014 website redesign. We have been blessed with some large donations, and these contributions are most welcome, but we recognize that the financial health of the Affiliates depends upon all our angels; we need a broad base of support. Thank you and God bless.



YOU ARE INVITED!

Fr. Gene Toland, MM, of Cochabamba invites you to a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) offered by MIT & the Presencing Institute.

Learn the principles and practices of Theory U. The Maryknoll Mission Formation Center in Cochabamba (where Toland is currently based) uses the TU methodology in a number of its programs. Innovative in its format and intention, this **free** course is potentially revolutionary. It helps organizational/system leaders focus and sharpen their leadership attention for transformative change in their local environments.

Course Description and Learning Objectives:

U.Labx: Transforming Business, Society, and Self

Interactive and experiential, U.Labx is about leading profound innovation in order to pioneer a more sustainable economy and society. The course is designed to create three types of knowledge:

Conceptual knowledge: The key concepts are Theory U (awareness-based leadership) and sustainability.

Practical knowledge: New tools/practices help people become better listeners, communicators, and leaders.

Self-knowledge: The most important dimension of all great leadership—Who am I? What am I here for? What am I going to do with the rest of my life in face of the increasingly complex problems and challenges of our world today and of my work locally?

For information and to register, see: <https://www.presencing.com/engage/blog/ulab-announcing-live-sessions-and-global-hubs>

The course runs online from **January 14th – February 18th on Wednesdays**, with live sessions on January 14th, January 28th and February 11th (**10:00-11:15 am EST**). Materials are available starting Jan. 7th, one week prior to the first session.

Thousands of people have already signed up. A number of Maryknoll people will also participate including Affiliate Board members, editors, and, we hope, regional coordinators, chapter contact persons, and members.

This is a tremendous opportunity to keep learning and growing! Let’s do it together.



A TANZANIAN SEMINARY FOR GIRLS

Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss – Portland Chapter

Agnes asked us at the gathering of Maryknoll Affiliates in Mwanza, Tanzania, “Have you ever heard of a seminary for girls?” Agnes Menard is the director of the St. Joseph Seminary for girls in Mwanza and is proud that she attended a college organized by the Maryknoll Sisters in Tanzania. Her work with the girls is one way she gives back. She invited us to visit her school the next day.



Photos courtesy of Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss

Manny Hotchkiss at gate to St. Joseph Seminary for Girls

Bertha Haas accompanied Mary and Manny Hotchkiss in July 2013 throughout Mwanza, where she had been a Maryknoll Lay Missioner for about nine years. Besides attending the Mwanza Affiliate chapter gathering with us, Bertha had arranged for us to visit other Maryknollers and projects in Mwanza.

St. Joseph Seminary was a hot walk uphill from our lodgings at the St. Dominic Pastoral Center in Mwanza. Agnes explained that her seminary for girls is equivalent to a young men’s preparatory school for the priesthood, except that her school educates young women for the religious life. Although the bishop will see that any young man who wants to be a priest can attend the seminary, there

Bertha Haas, Agnes Menard, and Manny Hotchkiss in the school yard; student girls in colorful uniforms in the background.



Bertha Haas, Agnes Menard and Manny Hotchkiss

is no special help for the young women. St. Joseph is a private school, and only a few scholarships are available.

Over 400 girls attend the four years of secondary school (Forms 1 to 4) and 2 years of A Level (equivalent to junior college). The students wear identical uniforms in pastel green, yellow, blue, or pink, the color denoting their year in school. We toured the school and visited a couple classrooms.

We were especially impressed with the classroom of about fifty Form 4 students studying for their tests. Notes in English on the human reproductive system were on the chalkboard. The girls expressed desires to be pharmacists, doctors, dietitians, geologists, etc.

Bertha told them about the handicapped children at the nearby Huruma school for the handicapped which she had founded. Bertha explained that with accommodations, some of the handicapped children are able to attend public schools. She said that although a child’s body may be misshapen their mind can still be strong and capable. The girls were eager to know how they could help at Huruma. Bertha



Bertha Haas and Manny Hotchkiss visit with Agnes Menard in classroom.

suggested the teacher plan for a future visit to Huruma with possible donations of stockings or a wheelchair.

Connecting the girls of St. Joseph with Huruma filled several needs: Huruma always needs support (on Facebook as Huruma Special Unit and at YouTube—search on Huruma School). The girls learned that handicapped children still have many capabilities.

Social outreach should be part of their religious education. Field trips are not a normal part of education in Tanzania.

Agnes told us that one of the girls shared that a healing prayer she had learned at the school helped her through a risky operation to a miraculous recovery. Agnes commented, “God is in us, with us, working through us. Working with the kids, you see God’s presence.”



CHAPTERS IN ACTION

TASTE OF TANZANIA
TO HELP DISABLED CHILDREN

Bertha Haas inspired Portland Affiliates to take on the project of helping disabled children in Mwanza, Tanzania. The Huruma Special Unit, a school for disabled children, direly needs funds. Bertha knows the school very well because she founded it over ten years ago when she was a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Tanzania. Now we all hope the Taste of Tanzania

in the local public schools, and some people even fear that the children’s disabilities may be contagious. Now three Huruma sites allow parents to bring their children to a neighborhood site for compassion, education, and acceptance.

After nine years as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Mwanza, Tanzania, Haas retired and is now an active Portland Maryknoll Affiliate. She still travels to the school in Tanzania each year and returns with suitcases full of Tanzanian crafts to sell for the benefit of Huruma. In 2013, she hosted fellow Affiliates Manny and Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss in Mwanza and showed them the three Huruma sites.

Tickets to the Taste are \$30 for the general public, but Haas has invited the many Tanzanian priests and sisters who serve in the Archdiocese of Portland to attend the Taste of Tanzania for free. She thanks them for their service to the Diocese and emphasizes the Diocese’s connection with Tanzania. More information and tickets are available by email at TasteOfTanzania@yahoo.com and through BrownPaperTickets.com.

A YouTube video about Huruma Special Unit states that it only costs about \$100 to provide schooling for a student for one month. Even modest donations will go a long way toward

Photo by Sean Sprague, courtesy of Maryknoll Magazine



fundraiser will be a major help to the school and the children.

The Portland area Taste of Tanzania, a cultural event and family-friendly dinner, happens Sunday, February 8, 5PM at St. Edward Church in North Plains, OR. Auxiliary Bishop Steiner hopes to attend and offers his support. All will experience a warm Tanzanian welcome—Karibu! The event offers music, savory foods representative of Tanzania, an art display, and a silent auction of Tanzanian treasures. Since one need not be present to win, supporters, including all US Affiliates, can participate by mail in the raffle for a quilt handmade by Bertha from colorful African cloth.

Huruma means compassion in Swahili, the local language in Tanzania. The disabled children at Huruma truly need compassion and in many ways are the poorest of the poor. They are not accepted



Photo by Sean Sprague, courtesy of Maryknoll Magazine

educating these children. A local nonprofit, Huruma Chapter Kileo, can accept tax-deductible donations, and checks for raffle tickets at \$1 each may be sent to 881 S. Ginger St., Cornelius, OR 97113. See information about Huruma at kileo.org/HurumaSchool/tabid/464/Default.aspx



THE WAY & MARYKNOLL

Carol-Ann Black – NE Florida Chapter

A “mission trip” to a neighboring county? Northeast Florida Maryknoll Affiliates would say, “Yes, indeed.” On August 14, with no suitcases, no passports, we boarded our transports and headed from Jacksonville, FL, to Green Cove Springs, FL, perhaps an hour’s drive. Once there, we visited The Way, Free Medical Clinic. The Way embodies the meaning of



Deacon Larry Hart, Carol-Ann Black, Mary Moritz, Shelby Miller, Darlene Hart, and John Moritz (l to r) meet with Jeannie Gallina.

mission. Here the uninsured, indigent, and undocumented can receive high quality medical care, for many, for the first time in years.

At lunch, we met The Way’s founders. Jeannie Gallina and her husband first had the notion of opening the clinic in 2005; by 2006 they had launched it under the guidance of the Clay County Health Department, with a small staff of volunteer doctors, nurses, interpreters, and clerical help. They were inspired to create The Way at a peace-and-justice weekend retreat. It was not a preconceived, preplanned venture, but rather pure inspiration brought to fruition with lots of perspiration.

The clinic has expanded steadily and has moved more than once. They now offer basic medical services, laboratory testing, referral services, prescription medications, wellness education, and ob/gyn services. Because Jeannie Gallina is not only capable but charming, the clinic enjoys tremendous cooperation from the local medical community and from the county government/health department because The Way eases the burden on local emergency rooms—a great saving for county health care budgets.

Patients receive general medical services two weekends a month. Ob/gyn clinical services are offered by appointment only, Monday through Thursday. Patients line up long before the doors are opened, are seen on a first come, first served basis, and may be referred to other medical facilities as needed. In the words of one of their volunteer doctors, “Our clients expect nothing but are grateful for everything.”

How does this “mission trip” relate to our Chapter? The Way needs volunteers. Some of us have gone on medical mission trips; some have language capabilities, courtesy of Maryknoll. Surely there is a way for us to assist in this local mission effort.

**LET THERE BE LIGHT!**

We recently received this story from Maryknoll Lay Missioner Curt Klueg in Kenya and were inspired by Curt’s creative use of appropriate technology to address poverty and assist with education.

Curt writes about Peter and Cynthia, students in the HOPE project, whose family of four (one mom and three children) live in a very simple 10x10’ room with one bed, no electricity, and no running water. In the evenings, the children have studies to complete and, like many Christian families in Kenya, they tend to spend some time every evening reading scripture and singing hymns together.

Alice, their mother, used kerosene for both cooking and lantern light. Purchasing kerosene was costing roughly \$16 per month out of an entire monthly budget of \$50-60. We know the family well and thought this might be a good opportunity to try out an idea for

solar lighting. For \$10, we purchased a very simple solar lamp that can be charged every day by setting it on the windowsill. In the evening, the lamp provides enough light to illuminate their small dwelling while the family completes their routine of



prayer, study, and family meal. Alice recently reported that the lamp has saved her family \$7 per month—a huge savings on such a tight budget! Can you imagine a single solar lamp providing 10-15% savings, not just on energy consumption but on your entire family budget?

With this pilot attempt providing such huge assistance, we would like to provide a solar lamp to every family in our project: 70-80 solar lamps. This will cost HOPE project roughly \$1000. But, as you can see, the savings for one family alone can surpass \$70 per year.

Curt responded to an email inquiry saying that they have now expanded the solar lamp program to many more families with similarly amazing results. Can you hear those families singing, “You light up my life?”

To learn more, you can contact Curt Klueg through the Maryknoll Lay Missioners at info@mklm.org.



VISITING BOLIVIA & PERU

Bob Short – Executive Coordinator

For two weeks in mid December Patty Barneond de Garcia Tres, Affiliate Board member and liaison to Latin America, and Bob Short traveled to Bolivia and Peru to meet with Affiliates and Maryknollers in those two countries.

The Andean summer's warmth was mirrored in the warmth of welcome we received from the Affiliates and Maryknollers in Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Lima, and Arequipa. In Affiliate communities and in Maryknoll center houses in Cochabamba and Lima, the welcome was overwhelmingly gracious—engaging interchange, tours, rides to/from the airport, invitation to participate in post chapter meetings, a special gathering of lay missionaries, celebration meals, prayer together—essentially, inclusion on every level. It was very encouraging and registered deeply.

Equally encouraging was the of the Affiliates' witness to mission. The legacy of Maryknoll animated so many of them to commit themselves to living the reign of God. Individually and collectively in Chapters, the action pillar is particularly strong. Affiliates work with indigenous people in the campo, prepare catechists, attend to abandoned children, work on justice issues, and more. It was especially touching for Patty and me to hear them recount what Maryknoll meant to them.

We did not ask, but in every gathering they spontaneously spoke of how Maryknoll priests, sisters, brothers and, where present, lay missionaries gave them a sense of self-dignity and missionary vision. Niño Jesus Chapter in Ciudad de Dios, Lima, is starting a new mission commitment for abandoned children. They said with a great sense of pride, "We ourselves are poor, but Maryknoll taught us that we can be "los pobres apoyando a los mas pobres" (the poor helping the more poor). At a meeting in Pamplona Alta, a woman spoke passionately, "We must teach our children to be the third missionary movement of Maryknoll!!" The comments from Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and Arequipa Affiliates were similar: filled with gratefulness, conviction, and affection.

A minor, exciting theme throughout our visit was the traffic, specifically taxi rides. By 2013, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and Arequipa all had about one million population. Multiply that by nine for Lima. Traffic is everywhere and taxis find ways to, using a colossal euphemism, *negotiate the traffic*. Patty and I took many taxi rides. Just about all of them were in small cars from the 70s and 80s; safety belts were a rare commodity and air bags a complete anomaly. The driver snaked through traffic, missing surrounding

cars by a paint molecule or two, leaning on his horn at very short intervals, and timing left and right turns by guessing how long it would take the oncoming traffic to get over the speed bumps strategically placed across the road. We were forever swallowing unfiltered gas fumes and feeling our heart-rate drop in about equal measure. Think somewhere between bumper cars and demolition derby. However, by the third ride and still no crashes, I built up enough courage to lift my head, open my eyes, and reluctantly admit that these taxi drivers were rather skillful—kind of.



Photos courtesy of Bob Short

Bob with mother and child in Chiguata

Finally, in so many ways, a moment during the last full day in the indigenous village of Chiguata spoke to the breadth and depth of the entire trip. Juliana and Satuca, two older members of the Arequipa Tahuacani Chapter, approached me before breakfast to share a bit of their story. Though fully integrated into the mainstream culture, Juliana has Aymara roots and Satuca, Quechua. They spoke of how mining excavation throughout Peru is ruining their beautiful land, and of how American and European companies come in fancy trucks, sometimes posing as agronomists who'll help them grow better crops, while their only interest is in extracting gold, copper, and other minerals for the company's gain. Juliana and Satuca then spoke of their mission commitment, so much of which they learned from Maryknollers as little girls. Juliana's eyes filled when she told me that age and significant health problems would no longer allow her to stay in the altitude to work with the people she had known all her life. "Mission is my life," she said. Satuca's health is fairly stable, but she too knows that aging is catching up with her. This reality is very hard for them. Yet, almost simultaneously they added, "Now we must allow God to use us for something new. God has been good to us."

As we so often say, while we go to other lands to give of ourselves, inevitably we receive so much more.



CAMINANDO CONTINUES

Ron Covey – Houston Chapter

Since the death of Father Thomas Goekler, MM, in 2010, *Caminando Por La Paz – Guatemala* has been run by Maryknoll Affiliates, guided by the Affiliate Four Pillars. We believe that this is the only mission program originally established by Maryknoll Fathers, Brothers, or Sisters that is now run by Affiliates.

In the April/May, 2011, *Not So Far Afield*, we described our efforts to continue Father Thomas' work. We constantly try to improve the program and to foster positive change in this small corner of the world—Paraiso II, Zone 18, one of the most marginalized, impoverished, violent zones in Guatemala City.

Education. Lack of education in the general population is one of the major problems in Guatemala; it leads to persistent poverty and violence and is undoubtedly connected to the US's immigration issues. Although Guatemala does provide public education, students pay for books, school supplies, uniforms, etc. For the poor in society, those with a third grade education are considered fortunate. For these reasons, education is our primary focus.

We currently tutor 23 students who are still in school, plus another 25-30 others. Thanks to a grant we received from Cross Catholic International, we have



Photo courtesy of Ron Covey

been able to expand this program, not only providing educational materials, but also offering nutritious food prior to tutoring sessions. The latter has greatly improved our attendance rates. Our children now show up early, with their plates, and of course, better food makes for more focus and readiness to learn.

Spirituality. We now offer a weekly holy hour, held on Friday afternoons and led by a nun from the local parish. We begin it with a prayer or two and perhaps a hymn. The main activity, however, is to read and discuss the scripture readings of the next Sunday's liturgy. Not only has the number of regular participants increased, but we have been blessed by people of the neighborhood, who, on their own initiative, are

now providing light refreshments—perhaps a sign that our efforts to build a sense of self-responsibility are paying off.

During the past year, donors financed our two spiritual pilgrimages. Last December, we took a group of neighbors to Esquipulas, where they could encounter the “Christo Negro,” a black crucifix believed to be the source of many miracles.

In early August, we held our second pilgrimage, this time taking about 25 neighbors over the mountain to Antigua. In the morning we visited music and coffee museums, both tourist attractions. On this trip, we treated participants to lunch on a friend's patio. In the afternoon, Edwin Bejarano spoke about the life of Hermano Pedro, a local saint who was canonized on July 30, 2002 by Pope John Paul II. After his lecture, Bejarano took us on a walk through the city, visiting various places that had been important in the life of Hermano Pedro.

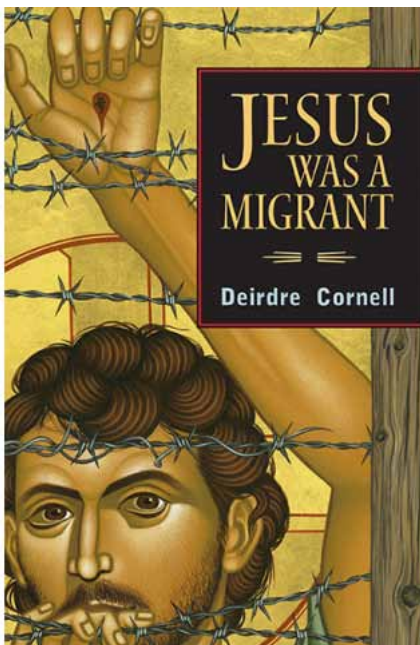
Other Projects. We remodeled a neighborhood volunteer's home—a small, single-room house with leaking roof and dirt floor. A key member of a growing group of neighborhood volunteers, she is a single mother with four children. Although the changes we made would not be considered much of an improvement in the US, we were able to divide the space into a small kitchen and separate living area. (We have been blessed as well, because she is one of the cooks who prepare the food we provide during tutoring sessions.)

Our **second project** was to improve a local soccer field, smoothing out the terrain and providing some shelter over the bleachers. We also painted the seating area and goal posts.

Lastly, after several years of planning and development, our **third project** is coming to fruition. We are now exporting coffee to the US. We have two goals: 1) to use the major portion of our earnings to continue our education efforts, and 2) to improve the lives of the coffee growers, who, after years of being paid poorly, can finally realize a more just wage. They plan to use the funds to improve their farming methods and, consequently, the quality of the coffee.

All that we are able to do to our donors, without whose help this program would have died with Father Thomas. Learn more about our work at caminandogua.org or on Facebook at “Misioneros Padre Tomas.” If you would like to request our periodic newsletters, email us at: missiongua@gmail.com.





IMMIGRANTS IN GOOD COMPANY

Bertha Haas – Portland Chapter

A Review of: Jesus Was a Migrant, by Deirdre Cornell, Orbis (40% off all books for Affiliates!)

Need a book that is at once personal and theological? Or both easy reading and extremely challenging? Both academic and intimate?

This is the book for you. Ms. Cornell interweaves all of these strands to create a rich tapestry. With vivid and penetrating pictures of the lives of today's migrants in our own country, she leads us into their world and evokes compassion. Highlighting the various migrations of Jesus, she adds dimensions to the Gospel stories that are easily overlooked by those of us who are not personally involved with immigrants and/or are generations removed from the migrations of our own ancestors. Further enriching the narrative are the autobiographical snippets of Cornell's own history and ministry.

Cornell's book can be read alone in one sitting. Or it could serve as the basis for a study/retreat with a Bible at hand to check all those references that you've read every year without ever connecting them to migration or Eucharist or community. Better yet, make it the text for a study group where you can actually probe the depths of the packed sentences.

However you choose to read *Jesus Was A Migrant*, your life will be surprisingly enriched.



Do you have a special concern or prayer request? You can post it on the Maryknoll Affiliate Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/maryknollaffiliates>.

FROM PORTLAND TO CHICAGO

Former Portland Maryknoll Affiliate **Evelyn Brush** writes from Chicago, where she has begun attending the Catholic Theological Union, that she has been welcomed by the Chicago Affiliates.

Evelyn says, "I am learning lots in my Catholic Social Teachings class. One surprise was the radical change Vatican II ushered in: Error has rights. Before Vatican II, if you believed wrong (in error) you had no rights, which is why the Jews and Muslims were killed. Those in error had no rights. Now, everyone has rights! We are all made in the image and likeness of God. Learning that the teaching changed so recently helps me understand some of the seniors I have worked with who resist getting to know 'the other'."



PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS

*For all those who see "home" and all it means
Disappear behind them;
For all those who cannot see a home
In the days ahead of them;
For all those who dwell in
Daily insecurity;
For all those who are weary and
Without a safe place to rest their heads;
For all families in migration we pray.
May the image of the Holy Family
Fleeing oppression stay with us as we enter a New Year,
And stay with us each night as we are blessed
With returning to a home.
May we also be blessed
With compassion for those
Still weary, still seeking,
Still with so far to go.*

—Jane Deren, 2007



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Photo by Sean Sprague

Bertha Haas's work with disabled children in Tanzania and her continued support of the school back home in Portland, OR, are highlighted on pages 6-7.

