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*"Luke 12:33-34 Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart be."*

Dear Friends,

Like many Americans I've been watching the Summer 2012 Olympics and am impressed at the giftedness of so many Olympians – like swimmer Michael Phelps with his 6 medals won in London. The man is extremely talented in what he does. He makes us proud.

This got me to thinking. I recently attended a half-day conference with Matthew Kelly, a dynamic Catholic evangelist. The theme of the event was "Living Every day with Passion and Purpose". I was struck by many things presented but one idea stood out. Matthew said our talents and abilities help us fulfill our specific mission in life. One talent he called Universal. We all have it. It is ***the ability to make a difference in other people's lives***. It involves love, generosity and compassion – the qualities that lead to eternity. The other type of talent like Sports is what the world considers important and applauds which has no eternal value in itself. Hmmmmmmmmmm....

***The ability to make a difference In other people's lives.*** I've never thought about it as a talent before. I think it's what life is about. This is the Olympic event that really matters. I am reminded of Javier.

Right before leaving Santiago Ixcán, Javier Gonzalez, a close friend, co-worker, and beneficiary of Ixcán Ministries said to me, "I have a letter I want to give you before you leave." "Really," I said. "Who's it for?" "*Los donantes*, the donors of Ixcán Ministries," he replied.

I just read the letter now. It says:

I am Javier Gonzalez Perez.

Through the present letter I want to infinitely greet all the members that make up the Board of Directors of Ixcán Ministries in the United States and for the great work you are doing for us the poor and needy in Santiago Ixcán. You are the bridge from there to here for us. Really, *muchas gracias*- many thanks.

I also want to express my thanks and in the name of all of us who have received help our sincere gratitude to all benefactors who donate money from the fruit of your work for us the suffering, the sick, the poor, and the students. There is no way to thank you for such valuable support, this great favor that you do for us through Ixcán Ministries.

Unfortunately, we are from a rural village that has suffered much by the 36 year internal conflict that we lived through in our country of Guatemala. It set us back so much in advancing economically, physically and emotionally. But with the help of God it is behind us and thanks once again to you for helping us.

I invite other persons that are willing with all their hearts to give their grain of sand (small amount) to help the needy, sick, orphaned children and students; more than anything to help economically through Ixcán Ministries.

In my thinking about all of this, we all think that you already have your direct ticket to heaven. I believe this because of the promise written in God's Word in Matthew 25: 37-46. (The Last Judgement.) For this reason I encourage you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to go forward in the ways of God. Greetings to all of you and your families from Santiago Ixcán. You are in our prayers.

Sincerely, Javier Humberto Gonzalez Perez and the family Gonzalez Gordian.

Well then. It seems as though Javier believes as Mr. Matthew Kelly – that people who make a difference in other people's lives are preparing for eternity. That's one talent we don't want to keep to ourselves. Thanks for making a difference in the life of Javier and in the lives of the materially poor of the Ixcán through your love, generosity and compassion. You are the Olympians of God, after all. May God bless you and yours.

Sincerely,

*Kathy*  
Kathy Snider

Aldea Santiago Ixcán. Ixcán, Quiché  
Guatemala, 31/05/2012



in finitamente a  
directiva del Pro-  
os Unidos Por el  
osotros los Pobres  
que ustedes son el  
nosotros Deveras  
do esto y  
su boleto directo  
Por La Promesa  
p. 25, 37, 46  
n nombre de  
a seguir adelante  
en Los caminos de Dios. Saludos a todos  
Y Sus familias desde Santiago Ixcán  
están en nuestras oraciones

Atentamente

Javier Humberto Gonzalez Perez

Familia. Gonzalez Gordian

#### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Ixcán Ministries provides a prayerful, pastoral presence through lay missionaries living in solidarity with the poor of the remote Ixcán jungle of Guatemala to learn from as well as to assist both spiritually and materially the people with whom life and ministry are shared. The organization strives to be a bridge between two cultures and nations allowing for the exchange of varying gifts between the rich and poor for the ultimate purpose of empowerment and transformation of lives and society.

Ixcán Ministries is a 501(c) 3 organization. Your contributions are tax deductible. You may contact us at:

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