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"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him/her will bear much fruit, because without me, you can do nothing." - John 15:5

Dear Friends and Benefactors.

In the early morning hours before sunrise, I arose and made my way to the chapel of St. James in the mission house where I live. I designed the chapel to be situated in the east corner of the house specifically because part of my spiritual practice is to watch the sun rise from an open window during morning prayer. In the adjacent corner to the east window is a simple round wooden altar where I lit a candle and placed a freshly brewed cup of tea. With journal, Liturgy of the Hours, and Bible at hand, I watched in awe as the morning sunlight broke through the darkness and awakened the dawn to a new day. I call this morning ritual "the Spirituality of the East Window" and it is essential to my life.





After morning prayer, I made my way to the kitchen and went to the refrigerator (we now have electricity in the village!) and took out a beautiful, farm raised, organic fresh egg I had received from Natividad, one of our women weavers. When we have meetings the women often bring me gifts of food and/or flowers and many of them have become my friends. Natividad had gifted this egg to me along with five others. As I thanked her she declared with pride, "These came from the chickens I bought with the sale of my weavings." I congratulated her and gently placed each one in the egg rack in the refrigerator. I smiled now, cracking the firm egg with a deep yellow yolk into the frying pan and soon enjoyed a

delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs and tortillas.

As I reflect on these simple actions of prayer and eating an egg breakfast thanks to Natividad and her chickens due to her involvement in our micro-business, it occurs to me that this symbolizes what we try to do as a ministry: praying, forming relationships with the people, and exchanging gifts.

Prayer is vital not only for personal spiritual growth and health but also for the active element of our ministry. It is being a contemplative in action whereas the 'what we do' flows out of our prayer and a sense of moving in God's will. Fr. Rick Thomas, S.J. (d.) used to say, "Do what God is doing." We try our best to do that which includes forming relationships, extending our help in outreach (education, health, pastoral ministry, economic development) and receiving help in return.



We realize that our ministry is totally dependent upon God's grace and provision through many people like you. We are humbled and grateful for this opportunity to serve here in the jungle of the Ixcan. We thank God and you for making this possible!

I pray that this Easter Season is filled with hope and signs of new life for you and yours! I invite you to brew a good cup of coffee, light a candle, open the window and allow the resurrected Jesus to come anew into your life beginning with the light of a new day!

Grace and Peace to you, Kathy

The marketing committee invites you to check out our website ixcanministires.weebly.com, click the Ixcan Creations tab. There are products to view and purchase from the website. Direct donations to Ixcan Ministries can also be done via the website and click on Support Us Tab.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Ixcan Ministries provides a prayerful, pastoral presence through lay missioners living in solidarity with the poor of the remote Ixcan 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.

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

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