



Volume 14, Issue 5

November 2014

Dear Friends,

It is nearing Thanksgiving and even though this particular holiday isn't recognized in Guatemala I always celebrate it. The turkey is already bought not from the grocery store or won at a Bingo Parlor but is still alive and gobbling until the morning of the 27th when the Ixcoy family will come and we will feast and give thanks – Guatemala style and with a cooked turkey.



I have much to give thanks for this year. I had an emergency appendectomy on the 22nd of April. The miracle is I was in the United States when it happened not in the remote Ixcán jungle. A nurse working at our village health clinic said to me, "We need surgeons in the Ixcán who can do appendectomies. People die of appendicitis here. They don't make the trip to the hospital in Cobán." She said this to me not knowing that I had had an appendectomy months prior while in the United States.

Yes, I am grateful to be alive. So is Maria Morales Lopez. About a month ago when Maria didn't show up at a weaver's meeting I was told that, "She was sick." I didn't think much about it as people are often sick here.

When she recently came to my house asking me to critique a scarf she had woven, I invited her to have lunch with me. During our conversation I asked about her illness and her healing.

Her eyes widened as she paused then said, "Hermana, you won't believe it. God healed me!"

She shared that she had been sick with varying pains for over a month. After unsuccessful treatments with varying doctors and healers, she eventually ran out of money and ended up bedridden. Her daily prayer went something like this, "God, I don't want to suffer more. If I still have life here – heal me – and if I don't, please take me."

Then one night she had a dream. In the dream she was visited by a woman in the village whose name is Flora (Flower). Flora approached Maria, her arms laden with flowers and holding a basket filled with them- exotic, fragrant, multi- colored of indescribable beauty. "*Que flores!* What flowers! They were like none I had ever seen before!" Maria exclaimed, remembering now with her eyes sparkling

and face glowing. Then Flora handed her the basket and flowers in her arms and said, "I give you these flowers. These flowers are your healing and your salvation. *Ya no vas a sufrir mas* -Now you will suffer no more." Maria shares, "When she gave me these beautiful flowers I was filled with overwhelming joy! I had never in my life seen flowers of such beauty. Then she left me and I cried." She continued now with tears in her eyes, "When I awoke I got out of bed and sobbed and sobbed not out of sadness but for joy!

After the dream the pains left her. Still teary-eyed she said solemnly, "Who am I such a sinner and of no importance, that God would grant me such a great miracle. Thanks be to God that I am here and that he sent me these flowers for my healing. I don't feel any pain now. There is no pain in my back, feet, bladder, stomach. It's gone. I'm at peace and I'm going forward."

I am often humbled and inspired by the faith of the simple people with whom I share life. Their dependence on God in the face of suffering and difficulties makes for miracles.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with gratitude for all of God's gifts as we give thanks for you who make this ministry possible.

Muchisimas Gracias y Dios les bendiga! (Many thanks and may God bless you!)

Sincerely,



Kathy Snider



Mission Note: The Ley Monsanto, affecting the people's right to use their native corn for seed and planting was recently repealed by Congress here. Thank God!

Kathy will return to the United States on December 13th, 2014 for some months.

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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