

Progresia

Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program



Spring Update 2013



A Busy Spring

April 8th marked exactly six months since the death of our beloved friend Loren. We miss him every time we leave our desks and walk into the living room where he was always stretched out on the couch either reading or napping. We miss having him always available to listen to a new idea, proof read a paragraph, or lend a sympathetic ear to one of life's small problems. We feel his loss personally but the work of the Guatemala Scholarship Program has continued without a hitch. We have selected a new group of students for 2013 and overseen their enrollment; the annual "Boletin" has been written and mailed to all of our graduates; preparations for the Student Conference were especially intensive as we prepared not only for the students but for several visitors from the States. (See Joe Snyder's article about the conference) Now we have almost finished the Update and I will take it back to the U.S with me for mailing when I leave on May 18th.

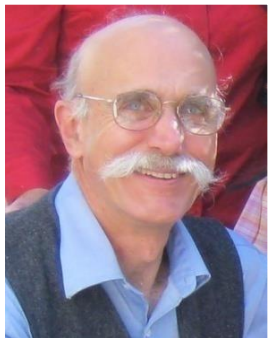
This year the Student Conference focused on "Escritura y Lectura" (reading and writing). We were pleased that Marielos Porrás agreed to act as our main presenter and showed us how to stimulate learning and retention in young children by reading to them. As she pointed out, the same techniques work with students of every age. Marielos not only teaches teachers at the Rafael Landívar University, she also teaches primary school students at the Evelyn Rodgers school, a top ranked private school in Guatemala City. As usual most of the students arrived on Saturday when we held an additional workshop on writing letters to sponsors and listened to an inspiring report and slide show from Rolene

Walker. The topic of her presentation was her concern for the environment which led to her two year "Walk for the Earth" from San Francisco, California to Santiago, Chile. As usual the conference program also included games and entertainments with songs, dances, skits, and a variety of "ice breakers". In all the students were given many different opportunities to work and play together (one of our major goals in bringing them together).

With the goal of encouraging greater participation in the scholarship program and celebrating our 40th year of existence we invited several North Americans to attend this year's conference. In the end we welcomed as guests, two members of Guatemala Friends Meeting, one member of Redwood Forest Friends Meeting, two members of Multnomah Friends Meeting, two representatives of Pacific Yearly Meeting and one non Quaker member of the Progresia Board. We think that spending time and interacting with our students has inspired these supporters to become even more involved with our program and we look forward to working with them in the future.

The desire to reach out and get more Quakers involved in the Guatemala Scholarship Program is also the motivation behind another new project, that of revamping and improving our website. We have already begun to work with a local consultant and hope to have our new site ready for previewing by the end of June. Meanwhile we are brainstorming for other ideas of ways to generate interest in Progresia.

1,116 Dulces — by Joe Snyder



Thirty six students, each from a different community in Guatemala, each with a small bag of penny candy in hand, approach the table in front of the conference. "1977" A student comes forward and drops the contents of her bag into the large glass jar on the table, calling out the number: 4.

"1978" - another student: 3, more years, more numbers. The jar begins to fill, 1982: 11, 1983: 17, 2001: 32, 2007: 42. The jar fill and empties three times, into a large basket. 1,116 "dulces" each representing a student who completed his or her course of study with assistance from PROGRESA over the past 40 years.

In the room are about 100 young Guatemaltecos, 85 or so current students and a few returning graduates, gathered for the PROGRESA Annual Conference in Mixco, Guatemala. We are pleased and honored to be guests, along with Rolene Walker, California Quaker who walked from California to Chile to raise consciousness about ecological crisis. Her address to the students was inspiring and well received.

PROGRESA conferences are both educational and social events. The theme of this conference was Writing and Reading. Although most students are attending University, many lack advanced writing skills due to large class sizes and overworked teachers, and, for some, the language in which they write, Spanish, is not their first language. There are 22 Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala, most of which were represented at the conference. Students spent the first afternoon working together on a writing project, and the following morning in a workshop on reading with children, presented by María Porrás, Guatemalan professor of reading education.

The social aspects of the conference appear to us to be as or more important than the educational. Many students come from isolated villages, perhaps the first from their community to attend University, where they may be among thousands of strangers. This opportunity to forge links of communication and fellowship with others on the same path is of great value for developing

the leadership network and skill pools needed for empowering the indigenous cultures of Mayan Guatemala. In addition to working in two different groups selected for diversity, attendees spent one late afternoon playing numerous cooperative/competitive games with much hilarity and excitement. Culmination of this strain of the conference was the evening cultural night in which students perform skits, songs, and dances by groups, followed by dancing and singing late into the night. Remarkable talents appeared with great joy and celebration. We felt honored to be included.



The most touching event for us was Quaker Meeting for Worship held under the trees early Sunday morning. Although a Quaker project, PROGRESA does not proselytize Quaker faith. We do worry that students may not be given an opportunity to understand the faith and practice that motivates our work. To that end, I was asked to give a brief introduction to Quaker faith and manner of worship at the evening celebration, and to invite interested students to attend worship the following morning. Describing our faith in three minutes is hard enough in English, let alone inadequate Spanish, but my audience was kind and the words well received. Twelve students attended our short Meeting. At the rise of Meeting, all were offered the opportunity to share hope, thanks, and concerns. Several students spoke at some length and with great intensity. One young woman was already realizing that from her blessings came a responsibility to consider and support those even less fortunate.

We return feeling blessed indeed to have witnessed the work of PROGRESA first hand, both the skill and dedication of the director, staff, and board and the awesome energy, talents, gifts and strength of the students, 90 more "dulces" for Guatemala.

The Next Teaching English Experience

The Teaching English Experience is a soul satisfying week of hard work which is both fun and rewarding. Our students are eager to learn English and your efforts provide them with a chance to experience the joys of one on one learning. 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 \$925 which includes room and board for you and your student.

We have reserved the dates at the Belen Convent in Antigua. Teachers are to arrive on Sunday, January 5th 2014 and students will arrive on Monday, January 6th. Graduation night is the following Sunday and departure is Monday, January 12th. Reserve your space by sending a check for \$300 to Redwood Forest Friends. PO box 1831, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. BE SURE TO WRITE TEACHING ENGLISH IN THE MEMO SECTION OF YOUR CHECK. For more information e-mail marthadugan@gmail.com or progres3@gmail.com.

Alejandro Ramiro Chan was helped by Progresa from 2005 to 2009. He studied Political Sciences at the Rafael Landívar University in Quetzaltenango. He was an outstanding student, not only because of his high academic average, but also because of his many extra-curricular activities. As is the case with many of our students the extensive and complicated paper work which is required to graduate



delayed his actual graduation until 2011. Since leaving Progresa he has worked for a variety of organizations which promote citizen participation. Currently he is teaching at the university where he graduated. We hope that many doors will open to him because we know his outstanding capacity and leadership abilities.

José M. Hernández was born in Cuarto Pueblo, an aldea of Playa Grande, Ixcán and his first language is Mam. In 2009 José contacted Progresa to ask for financial help in studying to be a specialist in the administration of Water Based Farming businesses (a high school degree). After hearing his story and learning of his strong desire to study and better his situation, we were pleased to accept him into



the program. He began his studies in January 2010 and during the next three years proved himself as a dynamic and responsible student. In November of last year he accomplished his dream by graduating in his chosen career from the Escuela de Formación Agrícola in Coban, Alta Verapaz.

During the first week in March we received a telephone call from José reporting that he is currently working for the same company that accepted him for his internship and that his new

goal is to help his 15 year old brother to continue studying and that at the end of March he will be making his first payment towards his educational loan. His accomplishments make us very happy and we hope that he continues sowing more and more success.

Oscar Caal was born in a community of Playa Grande Ixcán in the department of El Quiché. With our help, he studied to become a practical nurse in



2012. At the beginning of this year we were pleased to receive a letter from him letting us know that he had found work at the New Life Mid-wife Association in the area north of Coban. We were really happy to learn that he is now able to offer his services as a professional

and we wish him continued success.

Hermelindo García comes from an aldea of Barillas, Huehuetenango. With Progresa's help he studied to become a professional nurse from 2009 until 2011.



His family is very poor and come from a very rural area. Without our help he would not have been able to continue his education. We recently received a message from Hermelindo on Facebook of which the following is an excerpt "Excuse me for not having communicated with you before this. I want to tell

you that this year I began working as a nurse in the area of the Ixcán, Playa Grande. Last year I was not able to work because I did not have my official nursing certification, but thank heavens I have it now. I hope to soon be able to repay my loan. Thanks to your help I am now employed. I say good-bye for now but will contact you soon."

Our graduates in 2012

We are very happy to share with you that last year 24 of our students graduated or finished their course work. Following is the list divided into university and secondary students. Thanks to the help of all our donors we have changed 24 more lives!

University level

Teaching: Benita Luc, Elena Alvarado, Joel Sep, José Cifuentes, Ofelia Paau. **Nursing:** Domingo Caz, Juan Bac, Rubidia Matias, Tito Ramírez. **Law:** Santos Mendoza, Vilma Chalí. **Psychology:** Doris Martínez.

Secondary level

Elementary teaching: Antonio Carrillo, Aurelio Rodríguez, Erika Ixcotoyac, Hageo Jiménez, José Chuy, Marvin Son, Rut Calí, Sergio Maxía. **Agriculture:** Gilberto Ralios, José Hernández. **Auxiliary nurse:** Oscar Caal. **Computers:** Roxana Chub.

The kind of feedback that keeps us motivated

As we began working to put this Update together we received this e-mail from Rosa Lidia Carrillo, a scholarship student from a very rural area who graduated from high school with our help. Here is what she had to say.

May 4, 2013

Cordial greetings from the far corners of Los Angeles, Ixcán. Hola, this is Rosa Lidia Carrillo writing to you, ex-scholarship student of los amigos quakers.

I want to tell you that, thanks to the help I received, I was able to graduate as a primary education teacher in 2004. Following that I continued my studies until I received my secondary school teacher certification. Then I took courses to be certified as a pre-primary teacher. Finally, with a great desire to continue studying, I began my studies for my licenciatura in secondary school education in 2010 and I am now working on my thesis.

Since 2008 I have been working in my community at the Escuela Oficial Rural Mixta. First I worked with children in pre-primary and for the last two years I have worked with first grade children because this is such a key grade for success in the educational process. From 2007 to 2009 I also worked as a volunteer collaborator with students in middle school because our community didn't have enough money to pay for more teachers. From 2010 to 2012 I taught a group of women from my aldea how to read. This led to 18 mothers of families receiving primary school diplomas (the equivalent of 6th grade), something that had never been achieved before in the history of the aldea. Thank you friends for offering me your help, because it has changed my life significantly.

Changing the topic, I just received the "Boletin" you sent to graduates of the program. It mentions that the student conference will focus on reading and writing as tools for learning. I would appreciate it if you could send me a copy of the materials you used for the conference because the topic of my thesis is related to this theme.

I thank you infinitely for your help because you are friends who have changed my life.
Hugs and salutations,

Rosa Lidia Carrillo



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Find us on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/progres3.quakers>

Visit:
www.guatemalafriends.org

Without your help this would not be possible.

All donations are fully tax deductible in the U.S.

Donations are made to: Redwood Forest Friends
Meeting

Attn: Guatemala Scholarship Loan Program
P.O. BOX 1831
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Contact: Harriet Lewis at **hlewis@sonic.net** or +
(707) 526.1066

Help us save some trees, send an email to **progres3@gmail.com**
to request this and the next updates by email.

Student Roster 2013 – Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program

UNIVERSITY LEVEL

Qty.	Name	Age	Language				
				2	Robson Federico López Castro	24	K'iche'
				3	Victor Manuel Yacón Pichol	21	Kiche'
Law (5 years)							
1	Amilcar Arnulfo Lucas Morales	26	Mam				
2	Deysi Leticia Esquit Miculax	24	Kaqchikel				
3	Edgar Benjamin Ramirez Morales	29	Mam				
4	Eduardo Jacinto Pablo Francisco	27	Q'anjobal				
5	Ermeregildo Castellanos Caal	32	Q'eqchi'				
6	Helen Luisa Montejo Montejo	24	Popti'				
7	Jacinto Fernando Bernal López	27	Ixil				
8	Pascual Ramírez Morales	28	Mam				
9	Paulina Elizabeth Pop Sequec	24	Tz'utujil				
10	Sacarías Silitá Vásquez Jiménez	23	Mam				
11	Santos David Villatoro Villatoro	24	Spanish				
12	Ticleón Manuel Aguirre	22	Akateko				
Nursing (Professional, RN, 3 years)							
1	Ana Valeska Mateo Nicolás	27	Q'anjobal				
2	Rosenda Ruby Yoj Barrientos	22	Q'eqchi'				
3	Susana Magda Choc Juc	27	Q'eqchi'				
4	Ada Ileana Veliz Juarez	36	Spanish				
5	Gricelda Marina Tot Macz	23	Q'eqchi'				
6	Heidi Isabel Caal Sierra	21	Poqomchi				
7	Lilián Lizeth Aquilá Morales	21	Kaqchikel				
8	Miguel Angel Tun Pop	23	Q'eqchi'				
9	Eligia Natividad Castañeda	35	Spanish				
Secondary teaching (4 years)							
1	Marcos Francisco Méndoza	26	Kaqchikel				
2	Domingo Ixquiactap Perechú	25	K'iche'				
3	Fausto López Domingo	38	Popti'				
4	Ofelia Paáu Tz'i	25	Q'eqchi'				
5	María Celena Cuy Chom	20	Kaqchikel				
6	María Yolanda Cuy Chom	20	Kaqchikel				
7	Roselia Sisimit López	28	Kaqchikel				
8	Edgar Choc Hernández	27	Q'eqchi'				
9	Elsa Ofelia Yojero Estepán	25	Kaqchikel				
10	Hilario Tiul Coy	27	Q'eqchi'				
11	Nancy Paola Mó Cal	21	Poqomchi				
12	Concepción Cuá Lacán	23	Tzutujil				
13	María Martín López	38	Mam				
14	María Luisa Chalí Chalí	23	Kaqchikel				
15	Santos Eulalio Sirín Sirín	25	Kaqchikel				
Social work (5 years)							
1	Amanda Petronila Toledo	27	Q'anjobal				
2	Francisco Daniel Mateos Rafael	29	Jakalteko				
3	Gilda Mariela Hernández Miculax	23	Kaqchikel				
4	Hermeregildo Cho Caal	29	Q'eqchi'				
5	Jerónima Sulugüí Chumil	25	Kaqchikel				
6	Silvia Guarán Cubur	25	Kaqchikel				
Psychology (5 years)							
1	Diego Bernabé López Joj	25	K'iche'				
2	Obden Aroldo Méndez Ramírez	30	Mam				
3	Silvia Rosana Cortéz Solomán	29	Achi				
Medicine (6 years)							
1	Abdias Isaí Rodríguez Jocol	20	K'iche'				
Business administration (5 years)							
1	Milton Rocael Manchamé Arrollo	22	Spanish				
Systems engineering							
1	Joel Abdulio Arana Martínez	36	Spanish				
Agronomy (5 years)							
1	Francisco Pellecer Aguirre	22	Spanish				
Sociology (5 years)							
1	Ana Matías Felipe	25	Popti				
SECONDARY LEVEL							
Primary bilingual teaching (3 years)							
1	Dolores Ical Jóm	18	Poqomchi				
2	Emanuel Teletor Chén	19	Q'eqchi'				
3	Francisca Filomena Chutá Pérez	18	Kaqchikel				
4	Rafaela Jóm Ical	20	Poqomchi				
5	Amalia Mucú Caal	28	Q'eqchi'				
6	Alexandra Ruby Perez Escum	18	Tz'utujil				
7	Leobardo Isaías Chalí Perén	22	kaqchikel				
8	Lilian Marina Tzaj Bóc	19	Kaqchikel				
9	Teresa Cún Són	19	Kaqchikel				
10	Tomás Antonio Francisco	19	Q'anjobal				
11	Santa Cecilia Morales Tizol	19	K'iche'				
Pre-primary teaching (3 years)							
1	Dora Elisa Sajbochol Sajbochol	16	Kaqchikel				
2	Diego Lux Tzoy 2do.	23	K'iche'				
3	Gladys Sajbochol Curruchiche	17	Kaqchikel				
4	Lilibeth Basilia Ajxup Lajpop	15	K'iche'				
Agriculture technicians (3 years)							
1	Jesús Aniceto Velásquez López	21	Spanish				
2	Jaime Santiago Morán Morán	23	Poqomchi				
3	Pedro Rolando Félix Francisco	23	Akateko				
4	Roberto Pacheco de la Cruz	16	K'iche'				
5	Agustín Vásquez Ramírez	18	Mam				
6	Sergio Octaviano Tut Xol	18	Q'eqchi'				
7	Odilio Cruz Pablo	18	Mam				
8	Miguel Angel Bulux Cojtí	21	Kaqchikel				
Business administration (3 years)							
1	Juan de Jesús Sohom Ramírez	17	K'iche'				
2	Franklin Mizael Velasco Tacatic	18	K'iche'				
3	Lucía Regina Guarchaj Tzaj	17	K'iche'				
4	Keith Anthony Ixcayau Itzep	18	K'iche'				
Vocational nursing (1 year)							
1	Elmer Hernández Fernández	19	Spanish				
2	María Herminia Canay Galindo	19	Ixil				
Bookkeeping (3 years)							
1	Marielena Gómez López	20	Spanish				
2	Claudia Micaela Coj Tziquin	17	K'iche'				
3	Dina Yamilet López Beletzuy	16	K'iche'				

Building drawing (3 years)

1 Edvin Escalante Berdúo	21	Spanish
2 Abner Daniel Aguilar	19	Q'eqchi'
3 Lodwin Morales Corado	19	Español

Music teaching (3 years)

1 José Antonio Chan Saquic	19	K'iche'
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Communication (3 years)

1 Mónica Ajxup Hernández	18	K'iche'
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Dental technician (3 years)

1 Leonardo De León Gonzalez	19	Mam
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Adult education (junior high school)

1 José Jeremías Sanic Tzún	21	K'iche'
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Computers (3 years)

1 Walter Pérez de León	21	Mam
2 Pedro Daniel López García	17	Kaqchikel

Young students under special memorial fund

1 Jasmin Mishel López García	11	Kaqchikel
2 Isabel López García	16	Kaqchikel
3 Margarita López García	14	Kaqchikel

Physical education (3 years)

1 Wilson Anibal Pichiyá Chutá	19	Kaqchikel
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The number of new students

We will once again have a total of 97 students in 2013. We thank all of our supporters who have enabled us to maintain this number despite the continued economic difficulties we have all shared.

A breakdown of students indicates that 54% are studying at the university level, and 46% are in secondary school. 48% are women and 52% are men. The most popular university majors are: Law (12), Pedagogy (11), Professional nursing (9) and Social Work (6). At the high school level the most popular majors are: Primary School Teaching (11), Agronomy (8), Technical Careers (6) and Pre-primary Education (5).

