

Honduras Committee 7-6-21

Present: Diane Lyon, Carl Bern, Monica Reinken, Jean-Pierre Taoutel, Sheryl Montabon, Daniel Attinger, John Kazwell (absent Brandon Walls)

We discussed the funds that were available to be spent and what we have coming up through the end of the year. It appears that we have some money that could be use for additional Hurricane Relief, but we wanted to ask John D if there is a need for something else. Diane will communicate with John regarding this.

We did decide that by the end of the year we would need the funds below, and we'll vote to send them to our sister parish at the right time

- Send \$5000 for Maestro en Casa at John's request
- \$3000 for ongoing parish support

---John had emailed that Fr. Herman would like to have some STA people come for a building consecration on Sept 12. There was a discussion of the +s and -s of going. It doesn't seem likely that the parish policy on travel will change, so anyone going will go on their own. Diane: Tickets are \$500. Jean-Pierre, Diane, Carl---possibility of going

--Those members of the group present talked about Café el Zapote a bit. It was shared that the farmers are building their own processing plan

---Carl reported that St Thomas parishioner Jenn Thornburg is interested in going to Dolce Numbre to teach English as a second language. She will correspond with John Donaghy about this.

---Carl is thinking of having a student write a history of the St Thomas Coffee committee so that their work is given more publicity. Diane, Sheryl, Monica are members of Café El Zapote.

Notes taken by Carl, edited by Diane

Meet August 10 (maybe hybrid Zoom) 7 PM St. Catherine

Honduras Committee 8-10-21

Present: Diane Lyon, Carl Bern, Monica Reinken, Jean-Pierre Taoutel, Sheryl Montabon, Daniel Attinger, Brandon Walls

---Diane: --John has pictures of new building on his blog. (google John Donoghy Honduras)

--People there are more interested now in trying to travel to the US

---Needed to decide on funding to send:

- \$500/mo for ongoing parish support. Approved.

- Up to \$6000 for Maestro en Casa: Approved.

---No one from the committee is able to go to the Sept 12 consecration at Dulce Numbre.

Next meeting Oct 12.

Honduras & Coffee Committee 10-26-21

Present: Diane Lyon, Carl Bern, Monica Reinken, Jean-Pierre Taoutel, Sheryl Montabon, Daniel Attinger, Brandon Walls, John Donaghy, Natalie Even, Tim Moony, TJ Paskach

--Brandon: Want updates from John.

--John: in Honduras since 2007.

--Auditorium will be named for St Thomas. It's nearing completion. Needed a place for suitable for people. They wanted it to be in the town for convenience to get to services, banking, etc. Floor needed 400 bags of cement. Every Sunday eve the people sell empenatas. Decent place for when people come for training. Dedication will probably be when Fr. Kyle comes.

--Slowly the catechists are working. There will be about 470 confirminants. About 40 will be baptized at the Easter vigil.

--Solidarity fund: Subsidize medical costs for parisioners. Example Med tests \$79. Costs for repairs of storm damage from hurricane damage. Part of costs are covered—what family can't pay for. Most Common: cement and galvanized steel roofing. Tried to connect community with a geologist. The community may have to relocate because of the danger of land slides. There are also faults in the area. Nobody was prepared for the hurricanes. About 2 or 3 in the morning one village got the word they had to evacuate. Had meeting with several communities to figure out what to do. Had 6 meetings in different parts of the parish. In one community, between the hurricanes, they developed a plan. Certain people coordinated the evacuation of 40 people for a community. They learned to do it themselves. When a warning came, people were told to store water, have flashlights, gas for chain saws, have machettes ready. This was done earlier this month in 7 workshops.

Parish is 86 sq miles. Roads vary. Some are very poor. 4 municipal centers, 29,000 people in area. Some places take an hour to get to. In some places, a plane is needed to to reach the village. In the parish, there is 1 priest. The pastor does one mass Sat eve. Four masses Sunday over the day. One in Dulce Numbre.

A lot of work is decentralized. There are 27 communion ministers. In Fall 2019, Jon had a person come out to teach English to little kids. Caritas may do training sessions on basic work skills on Saturdays. This is in an old place that is not used. Soldering, sewing, People pay a small amount. A woman from Ames wants to come and teach, but won't work now.

The major work of communion ministers is to visit the sick.

John is doing some of the weddings. Most couples are already living together. John is also visiting the sick.

--Training: 2 years to be a communion minister.

--Outbreak of migrants-----During mass, they had petitions for migrants. Often 20 people young form small villages. Pastor has been asked to baptize kids going on the trip. Came to John. One person went to Canada legally. To Quebec. They fly and then come back. Saddest one: baptized child, in US now. They were kidnapped at the border in Reynosa. Paid perhaps \$1000---Loans on land to get money. Been at 2 funerals where person died in US, body brought back for funeral.

Covid: official figures are understated. Knows 2 people who went to Santa Rosa and did recover. Two priests died of Covid. Social distancing is difficult for the Latin culture. John carries a box of masks. 32 % vaccination according to the government. Honduras 364,000 cases in country of 8 million. 10,000 deaths. USA 2200 cases per 100,000 Honduras 73d in number of cases.

19 to 25 farmers are selling to a distributor in Houston. October has been dry and hot. Crop is smaller this year. Harvesting will be started in November. Farmers were told to drink only good coffee. Reportedly improves health.

Processing facility is being built. 80% finished. The facility will take off the outer pulp, wash and dry. Then this is sold as green coffee. The beneficio sorts the green beans. Solar greenhouse dryer is done. Funding rest of project ---

Aid projects don't address the problems. Major elections for many offices are going on now. Lots of corruption. Lots of politics. Narco state—relatives of president are trouble due to drug offences. Local level—be in the party in power. 2 elections in the area. Some candidates want to do good things. US could put pressure on pressure on the president. There are serious issues of election fraud. Bishops are more vocal than in the past. Good: local people work on project of construction.

A trip: 5-7 people. Stay in rooms in parish is best. Ride in 1 vehicle. Interaction is important.

HS student came as a visitor---Her father worked with people there to get something done.

Health system is a disaster----no medicine, doctors not paid.

Resources: Canada big in development along the north coast.

Need to get people to organize themselves. They need incentive to better their lives there, not in US ElZapote is being successful in doing this.

-Truck: 7-800 miles/ month. Diesel: ~\$4/gal, Purchased with a gift from a person in US.

---The student is still at the school near the capital - they stayed for the whole year to be safe from covid.

---In Nov, farmers came and planted an avocado in John's front yard. Several years to mature.

--Farmers are working with groups to diversify crops and they are getting good advice.

--Maryknoll doing a weeklong program in El Prado.

Honduras 'meeting' – Virtual – February 16, 2022

I sent the email below to the members of the Honduras Committee with information on Scholarships for Honduras.

I asked members to respond/vote if we should authorize additional funds be sent for the Maestro en Casa scholarships, to increase to amount per scholarship per John's suggestion.

Below are the member votes:

Daniel Attinger - I vote yes to increase the amount of scholarship

John Kazwell - Vote yes on increase of scholarship as presented

Brandon Walls - I vote yes to send \$2,200 additional scholarship funds.

Diane Lyon – I vote to approve the additional funding.

Bern, Carl J [A B E] - Approve Carl

From: Diane Lyon <diane53lyon@gmail.com>

to Brandon, CDDort, cjbern@iastate.edu, Daniel, Jean-Pierre, John, Monica, Sheryl

Hello my friends,

I am traveling for work quite a bit so I've been out of touch.

I think that we have to consider this our meeting.

I have had communications with John wondering if we would consider increasing the amount for each scholarship.

I am encouraged that there are many taking advantage of schooling, and due to the times more are needing help, and like everything else, it costs more.

We have sent \$5000 already, and have approved an additional \$1000.

It appears that there is more than \$10,000 available in the Honduras Fund. We had several generous months last fall.

It would be my vote for us to increase the amount per scholarship as John suggests, and send the difference to them.

That amount would be an additional \$2132.57. I would make it a round number of \$2200 more for us to approve, and send a total of \$3200 more to Honduras.

So, If you would please vote one way or the other at your earliest convenience, I can let Net and John know what we'd like to send.

Thank you all so much.

Diane Lyon.

Here's the breakdown that John sent:

TOTAL REQUESTS: 158

Accelerated primary – 2

Básico (equivalent of junior high/middle school) – 55

Bachillerato (equivalent of high school) – 101

Last year STA provided scholarships of 1200 lempiras for high school, 750 for junior high, and 600 for primary.

The costs have gone up by 200 lempiras (\$8.16) this year. I want to know if you can raise the scholarships?

The costs are: High school: 2500 lempiras; middle school: 1500 lempiras; primary: 950 lempiras. These are the costs for the books which is what our scholarships have been based on each year.

Here's what it would be if we maintained the same amounts:

High school: 101 x 1200 lempiras (lps) – 121,200 (\$4942.12)

Middle School: 55 x 750 lps – 41,250 (\$1682.03)

Primary: 2 x 600 lps – 1,200 (\$48.92)

TOTAL (using amounts of last year): \$6673.07

Here's if the scholarships were raised by 100 lempiras (\$4.08) for high school and middle school"

High School: 101 x 1300 – 151,500 (\$6177.65)

Middle School: 55 x 850 – 46,750 (\$1,906)

Primary: 2 x 600 lps – 1,200 (\$48.92)

TOTAL - \$8132.57

Honduras Meeting notes 4-12-22 – 6:30 PM

Present: Diane Lyon, Carl Bern, Monica Reinken, Jean-Pierre Taoutel, Daniel Attinger – Cheryl Montauban was there via Phone

We read the opening prayer together from the agenda

Opening Prayer

Father God, We thank You for Your kindness in bringing us all together today. Though we may not know what this meeting holds, we know that You do. As we begin, Lord, help us to keep Your Word in mind. Lead us into conversations that are fruitful and enrich the lives of those who are here today. When we are undecided, please lead us in Your wisdom. When our opinions may disagree, help us to remain respectful to one another. More than anything, Lord, would You help us both to seek Your will and to pursue Your glory through all that we say and do. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen.

Our first topic for discussion was regarding the scholarship money for 2022-2023 – Maestro en Casa

After our virtual meeting in February, and then letting John know that we would be sending funding to allow for the increase in the scholarships. He replied back:

Fri, Feb 18, 3:38 PM

Diane,

I do not see how we can distribute any increase for scholarships this year. As I see it, it is too late to have an easy, equitable distribution of the funds. The money is given directly to the directors of the program who immediately pass it on to the national program where it is used to pay for the books and entry fees. The money was given to the directors about two weeks ago. Please don't have the money sent.

Or if it has already been sent, would you folks approve using it for the purchase of computers of the center in El Prado de la Cruz which needs the computers for its high school program.

John

So, we did NOT send any additional money –

I asked John what that would cost. He said he would ask the directors, and I have yet to hear back.

The Finances continue to be good, and I do think that it is something that we can consider, in addition to increasing the scholarships for next year. Those numbers are here:

Here's if the scholarships were raised by 100 lempiras (\$4.08) for high school and middle school"

High School: 101 x 1300 – 151,500 (\$6177.65)

Middle School: 55 x 850 – 46,750 (\$1,906)

Primary: 2 x 600 lps – 1,200 (\$48.92)

TOTAL - \$8132.57

If we were to fund 12 computers at a cost of \$400 each that comes to \$4800. I don't know if that is a ballpark figure on a computer there or not. I've seen new laptops in a wide price range from \$250 - \$524 – (\$3,000 to \$6288) And I'm not sure what they are down there.

So, the group thought that we should just go ahead and vote on these important areas.

1. The areas that we would be funding going forward then would be the ongoing church support of \$6000/year
2. The Scholarships with the new amount - we voted for an amount up to \$8200
3. Then the outfitting of one of the centers with computers up to \$5,000

One by one we brought up the three items above, and it was unanimous on each item for all 6 people attending.

Honduras Meeting notes 9/6/22 – 5:30 PM

Attending: Diane Lyon, Monica Reinken, Daniel Attinger, Carl Bern (remote)

Voting remotely: Jean-Pierre Taoutel, Sheryl Montabon, John Kazwell, & Brandon Wells

We said the opening prayer together

Heavenly Father, We come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this meeting. Help us engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community.

We discussed John's visiting September 20-26

1. We talked about sponsoring some type of 'event' where John to talk to a larger group of people. Our idea was perhaps ask him if he would be interested in a short talk on Sunday at Coffee and Doughnuts between masses.
2. In the past we have reimbursed him for is plane ticket – we agreed to do that again
3. He is also visiting because he needs to get a new computer. We talked about a contribution towards that purchase. We were unsure how much a new laptop would could cost, but agreed on up to \$1000. We felt that it critical for John to have this to be able to communicate with us.

Discussion regarding funding the computers for Maestro en Casa

Earlier this spring after we had heard from John D. we had voted to support this project. Once John had heard back from the project people he let us know that they had raised a good portion of the money, and a reasonable amount for us to send would be \$800 to \$1100

We voted to send the \$1100

Scholarships for 2022-2023 – Maestro en Casa

We Reaffirmed the amount to send for scholarships: - \$8200 send ½ now or \$4100

We will ask that ½ if be sent **now** so that the entire amount is there before the end of the calendar year.

Sending money to fund for the Medical Fund

We talked about how in the past we have supported the Medical fund for persons that can't afford necessary medicine or the transportation costs to have medical treatments.

We voted to send \$1500 for this purpose.

So We would be asking Net to send \$6700.00 at her earliest convenience

We agreed to send the \$1100 for the center computers

We agreed to send \$1500 for the Medical fund

We agreed to send 1/2 the Maestro en Casa funds-- \$4100