



The harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few.

[Mathew 9:37]

Please join S.O.S. in celebration of our tenth anniversary in mission with the Maya of Quiché, Guatemala.

For 10 years, S.O.S. has lived the **Ministry of Presence**, and has journeyed to empower the Maya, improve the quality of their life and break the cycle of generational poverty. We have seen many miracles as we have grown in faith, trust and friendship with the Maya.

More than 600 persons have journeyed to Guatemala to put their faith into action. It is hard to measure the hundreds of Maya who have permanently touched and transformed their lives and hard to measure the hundreds of Maya that YOU, have permanently touched and transformed.

S.O.S. has conducted over

2,500 eye screenings, prescribed approximately 2,000 pair of glasses, and facilitated over 300 eye surgeries to restore sight. It has provided bibles, supported the training of Catechists, biannually conducted faith sharing classes for adults and children, set up multiple computer labs, provided funds for teacher's salaries and distributed over a million dollars of critical medical and school supplies to needy schools and clinics. Over a hundred Maya children are currently being sponsored to attend primary, junior high, and high school levels of education.

We are preparing for the future, and in celebration of our 10th anniversary, S.O.S. asks you to share your harvest with the Maya with a year-end donation so that S.O.S. can continue its Ministry of Presence. You can designate your

TAX-deductible donation in any of the following areas, or contribute to the general assistance fund. Be assured that 100% of your offering will be used to provide continued opportunities for the Maya.

- Education —Children scholarships, Teacher salary support
- Health/Medical Needs —Eye glasses, Cataract surgeries, Medical Clinic support.
- Faith Enriching Needs —Catechetical materials, training, Bibles, stipends for religious order sisters.
- Community Needs —Wood burning Stoves, repair of churches.

Enclosed for your convenience is a return envelope for your donation... **Maltiox** —which means thank you in Maya— for sharing your harvest. ●



S.O.S.

Sending Out Servants

a Catholic lay mission serving as a **Ministry of Presence** among the indigenous Maya in the remote and mountainous Quiche' area of Guatemala.

bits & pieces

missions... In 2008, S.O.S. made two mission trips to Guatemala—one medical/visual and one faith-sharing—and two “business” trips for meetings with the people that support our mission efforts in Quiché. In our medical/visual mission to the town of Chinique, SOS trained 22 missionaries from nine parishes and three states. The medical/visual mission screened 380 Maya in need and arranged for 40 surgeries. In our faith-sharing mission, we prepared and coordinated 30 missionaries from eight parishes and three states.

A group of nine missionaries from St. Mary of the Miraculous Medal in Texas City (TX) visited many communities of their sister parish in Quiché, the *Inmaculado Corazón de María* (Immaculate Heart of Mary) while another team of 21 missionaries from the Houston area (TX), Cherry Hill (NJ) and Belle Vernon (PA) visited the remote community of La Puerta, where home visitations and afternoon faith sharing programs for kids and adults were conducted.

During the length of both missions trips, the S.O.S. **Home Team** missionaries participated in 24 hrs. of continuous adoration at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church. Their prayer support was essential for the success of each mission... we were blest by their gift of love through prayer.

During our “business” trips we participated in important meetings with Caritas and Prosolki (local administrators of the S.O.S. Guardian Angel Educational Fund –GAEF) and attended one of the students workshops. Meetings were also made with clerics and Bishop Molina, the Bishop of Quiché.

LMC... The S.O.S. Living Mission Community (LMC) is a gathering of those who were on a S.O.S. mission. They come together in fellowship and prayer to discuss how the mission experience has transformed their lives and to learn how as a community, we can carry the mission values into our daily lives and world. This year over 30 missionaries participated in two LMC encounters and other 18 attended a retreat facilitated by Fr. Gerry Kelly at Villa de Matel focusing on Spirituality—the Mortar of Mission. For more information about LMC contact **Meggen Willburn** at meggensos@yahoo.com or visit: www.sendingoutservants.org/a_teams/living.htm. ●



Jack Callahan in Guatemala

God
doesn't call the
prepared,
He
prepares
those **He**
calls!

In Maya poverty, I found a deep spirituality. by Jack Callahan

When the opportunity arose to be a “last minute” replacement to join our Pastor, Father Tom, and four other members of the parish in joining the Sending Out Servants group to go to Guatemala, I had to do some quick thinking and planning. Knowing that the Lord desires us to use **both the mind and heart of Christ** in reaching such a decision, especially since I was in the Senior Citizens category, I first had a conversation with my wife, Barbara, as well as members of the family. Next was Doctor Joynes, who had been in that general area, to seek his advice in going to Central America at an 6500 ft. elevation and to get the necessary shots. Also, I needed to insure that I could be adequately prepared in short order by our New Jersey leader for the trip, Marilyn Henry. Finally, was the need for prayer discerning God's Will in the matter. All systems were saying “Go Forth.”

It was to say, in the least, a Profound Spiritual and Emotional experience. First, the ages of our group spanned better than a half a century, but never was I in a group of 32 people who were more friendly, generous, and concerned for one another or better prepared for such a journey. Next, I was overwhelmed by

the beauty of the countryside contrasted with the extreme economic poverty of the Maya people. However, in that poverty, I found a deep spirituality in the parents and children. For example, their homes were hardly bigger than one or two rooms in our homes, but in each case, there was set up an altar where they worshiped daily. I found a people who had been devastated by war as well as injustices in their economic, agricultural and health systems, but willing to forgive as best as they could. For example, the Maya people were always last in line to receive health care in the clinics.

On my reflection after Mass on the first night of our arrival, I spoke that my desire was to gain a sensitivity to the Maya people and to be able to **walk in their shoes** during the visit. I gained a depth of spirituality from these wonderful poor, but very rich, people beyond my expectations. On my last night's reflection, my prayer was to be able to bring home that experience, and be able to bring a greater degree of sensitivity to family and friends, especially to those people, such as waitresses, bank clerks, and all others with whom I must be involved on a day to day basis. May the Lord Help me to *walk in their shoes* as well. ●