



The Message of the Cross!

Dear Friends,

In this season of Lent, as a time of reflection, abstinence and conversion; we should see this season with gratitude and with God’s eyes.

Let’s approach this season with gratitude because, when God promised a Saviour for humanity, he knew beforehand that he would give his son. God knew that he was condemning Jesus to the cross. Imagine how hard it was to know that he would hand over his son and watch him die a criminal’s death on the cross.

Knowing this, God continued with his rescue plan because his love for the World is greater than anything else, even greater than the pain he felt in his heart as he watched his abandoned and suffering son on that cross! That sacrificial death of Jesus is what saves us from our sins and restores the all creation. That’s why we should be grateful!

We also need to see this season through God’s eyes, because ...”God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son”...to die for us. We should be the ones hanging on that cross, instead of His son. However, God chose to save you and me instead, by delivering his perfect and only son, because He loves us! That is the powerful message of the cross! . . God loves us! Even though we don’t deserve it. God still loves us, because that is His nature.

As God’s people we are called to love the World as well! The Church is called to love the World just as God does. That’s why we are called to be interested in world’s problems, needs and sufferings. Jesus already prayed for this when he said ‘Just like you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world’.

We are sent to see the World in the same way that God does, with... LOVE, with compassion! Our call is to go and relieve the needs of the poor, stand up against the injustice, help the widowed and single moms, proclaim that death in the cross isn’t the final word; Resurrection is! Life is!

Hallelujah, he is risen! He is alive, we are alive!



Dyed sawdust carpet in Antigua Guatemala, made during Lent

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SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

In our first newsletter, we wrote about a young man, named Mario, who was taking care of Juana, his sick grandmother. Over time we got to know them and the community where they lived. It was interesting to see how a small and poor community was willing to help them out by dropping off food, providing personal care or cleaning up her home.

We were hoping to join that community and raise some funds to help Juana out in a way that would raise her self esteem by contributing to her own economic needs. But it was a little too late. On February the 2nd, my sister called me to let me know that Juana, who was 70 years old, looked really ill. We thought that the best option was to take her to Salama for medical attention, the provincial capital, about an hour and half away.

That's why, Kathryn and her mom went to bathe Juana and had a nice chat with her. They had just returned home when my sister called again to let us know that Juana had just passed away. We were shocked. Juana was just chatting with them 15 minutes earlier and now she was gone! Kathryn and her mom went back and when they got there, women of the

area had already cleaned out Juana's room, organized her belongings and were preparing Juana for the evening's wake. Others were sweeping my sister's porch where the wake was to be held, someone went to buy *pan dulce* (sweet bread), and coffee for later that evening. Many people stopped to donate more *pan dulce*, coffee, and additional funds to help pay for some of the expenses. In the end, the municipality donated the coffin as well as a plot in the cemetery. It was just like a big family where everybody helped.

But what really caught my attention, was Juana's confession. Just before Juana died, she said to my sister: "The only thing that I want is that Lord would take me" and with that, she took a breath and passed away. Now, indeed, she is with her Saviour, in the joy of her Lord. What a blessing when the smallest deeds of a community, the short time that we had to pray for Juana, the couple of tortillas and food that the neighbours shared with her, helped Juana to reaffirm her faith in God and to confess that Jesus is her Saviour!



HERMANO PABLO'S INITIATIVE

In 2018 a small group of mostly members from Central Presbyterian Church of Cambridge, Ontario, came to Cubulco on a Mission trip to build three Sunday school classrooms. During that time, we visited some of the church members and neighbours. When we saw their poverty, the work team decided to help them out with a small project of 3 laying hens per family. It might not seem like much, but it is a start in an effort to fight hunger. The purpose of the project is to supplement their diet with eggs initially and then have some meat later on. Last December, I was looking into that project again in an effort to follow up with initial project.



Hermano (brother) Pablo sharing his story about how God carried him through difficult times.



Those are the last 2 chickens and 1 rooster of the 200 that he had one time. He kept all of them in this place. It is about 25 square meters.

Last month, we went to visit Hno Pablo Bacaj. It was nice to see him again after a long time, however, he can barely walk now and has a hard time using his hands. Hno Pablo told me that he spent a lot of money in search of a cure. In an effort to improve his finances, he sold those 3 hens and bought 12 small heritage chicks instead prior to becoming ill. Those 12 chickens produced 200 chicks. This was enough to feed his family and pay for most of Pablo's medication. Now, he has just 2 hens left.

I was so happy to hear a story of one family that was blessed by the small project. By God's grace, the purpose of the project was reached and a family in need was helped. We believe that with a little training, other families can succeed as well like Hno Pablo. That's why we will be pursuing this project and hope that it will benefit other poor families in the area. As Pablo shares his experience, we trust that

others will be encouraged as something that is within their reach. This time around, we will acquire the services of an agronomist who implements projects that are organic and eco-sustainable with appropriate local technology.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Visit ImpactHope's Website:

<https://impacthope.ca/cubulco/>

To Donate Online:

<https://impacthope.kindful.com/?campaign=1120508>

You can also contact **ImpactHope** directly or contact **Central Presbyterian Church, Cambridge.**

ABOUT US

February was an odd month for us! We all got sick except for Abigail. Thankfully the kids were not sick for too long and recovered quickly. This time it was only I that had a really bad cough that lasted for 3 weeks. Thanks to God we are doing much better.

We tried to put our kids in the local school but because of Covid restrictions, they were only going to school one day and not learning much. We decided to take them out of school and home school instead. It's been a bit of an adjustment, but we've got a good rhythm going now.

We are grateful for your prayers for us, your donations and your love for people of Cubulco that you don't know personally, but are willing to help. People like Juana and Pablo have so much to teach us. Mission is a two-way process! As we walk with the people of Cubulco, we trust that God will continue to shape us through and for this ministry. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe.



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PRAYER REQUEST

- Pray for countries in war like Yemen, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Ukraine, and for others countries that are going through conflict or war. Pray for the local churches of those countries for God to use them as a relief during this time of crisis.
- For the chicken project and for those who are going to be involved.
- For the small Bible study group in El Naranjo, that God would continue to bless them and that they would be a light in that community.