

Happy New Year

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” Psalm 91: 1-2



Dearest Friend,

It is with great gratitude to the Lord that we share with you the joy of finishing another year of ministry in Cubulco. It's hard to believe that last year went by so fast. Thanks to your prayers and support we can say as Paul said to the Thessalonians, “We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ”; otherwise, we will not be able to attend to some of the needs of some people around the town of Cubulco. Most of you know about the Chicken Project which is going well and more families would like to join. Initially, we had 12 families in the pilot project, but because there is a lot of need, I talked to the group of 12 families if we can reduce the number of chickens per family, to include the other families. They agreed and each family received 13 chickens instead 15. There are 20 families benefiting from the project. In the New Year, we will continue with the workshop to keep the chicken project going.



Christmas Service

We have only briefly mentioned the Small Group that we started several months after arriving here. In the beginning, it consisted of 3 families, along with our family and now this group has grown to about 60 people including children. We had a wonderful Christmas service on Friday, December 23rd. On the Thursday, Kathryn along with several women from church went to the market to buy ingredients for the meal, which we helped make on Friday. Every family donated a chicken for the meal and about 14 women spent most of the day preparing the meal,

which consisted of a tomato based chicken soup, with rice and tamalitos (corn dough formed into small patties steamed in banana leaves) and caliente which is a hot fruit drink usually prepared for Christmas. It was nice to see how all the women were working together to prepare the meal for the families as well as other family members who do not attend the church and neighbours who were also invited. After the service, we had a piñata for the children and then we all sat down and enjoyed the meal together.

Update on Alejandro's Mission Work

Alejandro was able to finish his studies in theology that he had started back in 2004. The graduation service took place in Guatemala City at the Central Presbyterian Church of Guatemala. Alejandro's sister, her husband, as well as Kathryn's dad and brother, were able to attend the graduation. This year, he wasn't involved too much with the town soccer youth, like last year. He just went when he was invited to talk or for some special event. Most of his time was used preparing sermons, preaching, visiting members of the church, preparing and supervising the chicken project, teaching one course at the local private high school, leading a bible study with retired teachers, and directing and advising the recognition of the Native Mayan Language of Cubulco, called K'ub'ul. This movement started 21 years ago with the translation of the Old Testament to the K'ub'ul language. The Academy of Mayan Languages of Guatemala doesn't want to recognize the K'ub'ul language as a language. That does not just affect the distribution and promotion of the Bible in the K'ub'ul language, but also the education of the kids in the schools, the work of the teachers, and the 54,000 people who live here. That's why 21 years ago, as an evangelical church, we started the process of the Recognition of K'ub'ul as another Mayan Language that is spoken in Guatemala. Today, not only are the Christian churches supporting this movement but the whole town of Cubulco is demanding the recognition of our language. One of the ways in which we are getting recognition is through marches. Our family participated in the two marches that included teachers, elders of the aj k'ub'ul authority, churches (Catholic and evangelical), as well as other local organizations.



Alejandro leading a meeting for the Recognition of the K'ub'ul Mayan Language.

As we look to starting a new year, we ask that you join us in praying for clarity with regards to our future. It has become clear that even though we receive donations from people like yourselves, our monthly budget is just not being met and we are struggling financially and will need to move back to Canada if that continues. Aside from our financial situation, our children's education is another reason of concern for us as well. While we pray together for this matter, we wish you a really happy and blessed year of 2023, and may the Lord grant us the desire of our heart.

Blessings,

Alejandro, Kathryn & Family

Contact Us

Central Presbyterian Church
7 Queen's Square
Cambridge, Ontario N1S 1H4
(519) 623 - 1080
office@cpcmail.ca
www.centralchurchcambridge.ca