

VIM EL SALVADOR

August 2003

Vol. 3 No.3



Kay offers a class in sight singing -- or as called in Central America: la solfa.

How to begin to imagine how to explain what makes a note and how notes and rhythms combine to create music is a big challenge. One must first explain what one means that one tone is higher or lower than another. The sheer joy when the students begin to get it -- one note at a time, one tone when almost everyone is together in one sound -- is a tremendous gift to both teacher and students. The sphere of the heavens, the music of the soul, unfolds very slowly.

The question is how to equip church leaders to provide musical support and appropriate innovation. We ponder how each of us received a half-hour of musical instruction daily for at least our first eight years of grammar school. We cannot remember when we could not read music, when we did not understand these very basic relationships of sound, rhythm and expression that bring joy to our celebration of the glory of God.

Contents

"Micro-Business" Project	1
Evangelists earn Diplomas.	1
Building Consecrated	2
Cross-cultural Moments	3
Evangelists enter CAETS	4
Visual Health Clinic	4

Santísima Trinidad Investigates "Micro-Business" Project

The Junta Directiva (Parish Council) of Santísima Trinidad, in consultation with Engineer Antonio Cabezas, first-class seamstress Doña Virginia de la Cabezas, and diocesan social worker Mirabel de Ramirez, are researching how to start a small business for a group of unemployed women of the parish. While various individuals have begun micro-businesses with diocesan support, the women's group will act as a pilot project and hopefully a model for other groups in diocesan parishes.

The idea is to develop a line of cloth dolls of Hispanic and indigenous character to sell in both Central and North America. The women will make other types of crafts as well. The hope is that the business can get off the ground by August and take advantage of the coming Christmas season.

Dolls with brown skin are rarely found in El Salvador and other central American countries. This lack leaves indigenous children with the impression that blonde and blue-eyed is better. The dolls will not be targeted in the beginning for higher echelons of the market -- rather they will be offered to the general public, much of which is of indigenous heritage.

This cottage industry will be run by the women themselves with help and expertise from diocesan personnel and other non-governmental organizations that seek to enable Salvadorians to develop their own employment. The hope is to employ 8-10 women initially and test the market for the possibility of increasing the group or starting a second one.

(MICRO continued next column)

Evangelists earn diplomas.

On Saturday 21 June five members of the Evangelists Team of the Diocese of El Salvador were awarded their diplomas in Basic Biblical Studies. This eight-month course was offered by la Universidad Luterana de El Salvador. This comprehensive course was a survey course in which the students read the entire Bible. Along with the reading the students attended five-hour weekly classes on introductory issues and began their acquisition of necessary skills for responsible Biblical interpretation.

This programme is very much a practical course. The evangelists have been using their developing understanding of the Bible in Bible Studies as part of their parish ministry and in their preaching. Those Evangelists who are exploring a call to ordained ministry will continue as students in the provincial theological college (*see CAETS pg. 4*)

(MICRO continued)

Currently, the group is looking for sewing machines, both home models and industrial machines. At this point the parish has four industrial machines, none of which work; however, a young man in the parish has the ability to assess if they are repairable and to make the repairs if necessary. Home models are needed for the finer sewing required for the dolls and especially the doll clothing. The industrial machines can be used for other types of crafts such as baskets for tortillas and covers for blenders. Blenders are very

(MICRO continued pg. 3)



In June, The Rev. Juan Acosta, (front, third from centre) of the Diocese of San Diego led a men's retreat at Cielo Mar, The Diocesan Retreat Centre

15 June 2003



Bishop Barahona blesses the threshold of the church.



Eric Mundo Hernández, son of parish evangelist Flor de María receives sacrament of baptism



St. James' Church, Central NY gave the cross: to the glory of God and in memory of two young parishioners who died by suicide.



Bishop confers with Kay and Deacon Margaret O. Nelson.



Serving hot chocolate at reception



Kay and acolytes



Baptismal Font and Pascual Candle

Cross-cultural Moments

«»On the highway at night between San Martín and San Salvador, passing four vehicles without rear-view lights or reflectors. One was a truck with no lights or reflectors at all. Only the white license plate gave prior warning to the truck's presence on the road. «»Standing thin on the double line in the middle of the street, waiting to cross, as busses, trucks and cars speed past in both directions. Rarely is it possible to cross both sides of a street at one time, and cars normally do not stop for pedestrians.

«»Working out at a gym that is in a sophisticated commercial centre, and hearing a rooster crowing.

«»Arriving at the church in San Martín and learning that yet another youth – 16 years old — had been shot to death on the street in front of the church – the third since I have been serving in this church. Another youth was killed a few weeks later in the pasaje where our church evangelist lives.

«»In a supermarket discovering an English breakfast tea that actually tastes good. Tea is not a big drink here. If one orders tea in a restaurant, one receives a cup of camomille tea, unless one specifies black tea.

«»Passing through a green light at an intersection, and gasping with horror upon seeing a group of children, the oldest surely no more than six or seven, crossing against the light. By the grace of God the driver of the car in that lane had seen them and stopped. Despite laws similar to those in Canada, lights in El Salvador are only suggestions. Neither cars nor pedestrians find them sacred. One can never be sure that a pedestrian will not step out in front of one, although the people, including children, have developed a great acumen for survival, vying with death as a part of daily life.

«»Spending weeks preparing a theology course at an advanced level and then, the week before, being asked, instead to teach liturgy with five days preparation. This turn of events is not uncommon.

«»Finding out by accident that the time for a special mass has been changed to another day by people in the community and no one thought to tell me, the officiant.

«»Waking up to a newspaper headline that 293 persons, mostly infants under one year of age and the very old, in the first half of this year have died of a virus that causes pneumonia. Officials at the major children's hospital complain that they lack quantity and quality of vaccines and needed drugs

The Parish of Santísima Trinidad acknowledges with gratitude the generous support of St. James Episcopal Church, Diocese of Central New York, its gift that has enabled the completion of final details of the building along with the furnishings and ornaments.



Local artisans made the cedar altar with a design chosen by parish members.

Our Prayer to the God of the Poor

Thank you, God of mercy, for revealing your divine nature in women and men who suffer poverty and loss of dignity. As you appear both in the suffering and the joy of their lives, give us the humility to receive the gift of their courage and witness to the power of faith in a love-deprived world. Amen.

Bendiga esta casa,



O Señor!

(MICRO continued from pg. 1)
important

in Central America, as, among other foods, liquados – a blend of various fruit juices – are very popular.

The group is also arranging a basic cutting and sewing course for the women, obtaining bids from sewing institutes and instructors. Because of the job market in maquilas, (sewing factories) sewing courses are not difficult to find. While most group members can do some sewing, they recognize the need to improve their skills. The group hopes to have the sewing course happening within the next week or two.

Notice

Our postal address has changed. Mail sent to the old address has neither been arriving, nor sent back to sender. Please send any mail in or to Canada to the following address:

PO Box 30567; RPO Brentwood; Burnaby, BC; V5C 6J5 CANADA.

If you have sent us mail in the last two or three months and we have not commented or responded, please let us know.

Ed and Kay Schmitt

Evangelists enter CAETS

Antonio Recinos López, a young husband and father who serves as a lay minister working with four congregations located along the Coastal Highway near the frontier with Guatemala, tells of vision for ministry in the Church in that area: "I very much enjoy being involved in the villages in discovering, with the residents, the presence of Christ in our lives. I also am thankful that through this programme I have become aware of gifts for ministry that I have been given. This programme has been very helpful in my growth as a Christian and as a leader in the community. The combination of training programmes, working in the parish under good supervision and having a sense of call in my life, have all given me joy in life."

Antonio's thoughts give an indication of what is happening as the Evangelism programme enters into its second stage. During the past year an innovative pilot ministry effort has been taking place in the Diocese of El Salvador. Church members who were identified by their congregations were invited to become lay ministers in this mission church. The evangelists made a commitment to serve for one year and during that year to undergo a process of spiritual discernment—exploring the ministry to which God might be calling them. Seven of the participants have decided to return to their regular parish roles—having deepened their sense of baptismal ministry. Six of the lay evangelists have applied for postulancy, the first formal step in exploring a call to ordained ministry. These six lay ministers are enrolled in the (CAETS) provincial theological college. The students will continue their studies in their home dioceses with a local tutor supporting them in weekly group sessions while the students read, reflect and write their assignments at home.

Visual Health Clinic opens at Santísima Trinidad

After months of planning, the first eye health clinic arrived at Santísima Trinidad on Saturday, 5 July. The clinic, sponsored by a Roman Catholic parish in nearby Soyapango, conducted examinations of about thirty patients, prescribing affordable glasses for the majority. The clinic was initiated through an organisation from Spain that seeks to provide glasses for the poor around the world. Most glasses will cost about \$10.

Two trained volunteer technicians came from that Soyopango Church to do the examinations. Volunteer Nelson Carrasco, the project animator, helped clients choose frames from a selection of about fifty. The clinic will occur once a month, depending on need in the community.

The technicians have a simple method of examination, using tools brought from their church. Santísima Trinidad hopes to share some more sophisticated diagnostic equipment donated by Bishop Skip and spouse Bonnie Adams of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York.

"Many people in this community have nothing - nothing," Carrasco said. "The chance to get glasses by normal means is out of the question. We hope that our service helps people to regain good vision and return to work lost because their vision had failed." Carrasco, a Catholic volunteer in a very poor area of Soyapango, gives much time to the Visual Salud program, and acts as consultant with the Santísima Trinidad Visual Salud Committee.

The group created a private examination space by hanging fabric between pillars in the lower floor of the building that opens onto the main street of Colonia Santa Teresa in San Martín. It arranged a reception area for patients near the front entrance and benches were put outside for those preferring fresh air on a warm, humid day. The church plans wall dividers to create spaces for the various activities.

The Committee plans with the help of the Primate's World Development and Relief Fund



Visual Health Volunteer examines the eyes of Eugenia Barahona

to support a parish member, Isabel Claros, to train as a volunteer technician. Completing this program she can gain university credit and continue her studies toward a degree related to eye health. To gain insight into this new work, Isabel will help the present volunteers. The long-term goal is for Santísima Trinidad to have its own volunteer technicians who will also make the glasses using space at the church.



A Publication of Ed and Kay Schmitt

email: <accvim@yahoo.ca>

web page: <<http://ca.geocities.com/accvim>>

fax (503) 223-7952

mail: Iglesia Anglicana de El Salvador, 47ª Avenida Sur #723, Colonia Flor Blanca, San Salvador, El Salvador, América Central

Distributed by the VIM Schmitt Support Committee, Pat Appavoo, Secretary: <pappavoo@telus.net>

Volunteers in Mission, Anglican Church of Canada, Jill Cruse: <jcruse@national.anglican.ca>

Financial Support for this ministry may be directed to:

The Diocese of New Westminster,

580-401 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V6B 5A1

Please write "VIM" Schmitt" on the memo line.