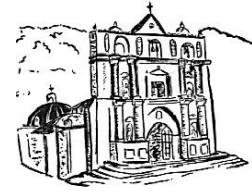


San Lucas Mission (www.sanlucasmision.org)
 1400 6th Street North
 New Ulm, MN 56073 – 2099



SAN LUCAS MISSION 2010 END-OF-YEAR REPORT

December 2010
 San Lucas Tolimán, Sololá, Guatemala

Dear Friends,

As 2010 draws to a close, we are writing to highlight some of our achievements over the last twelve months. Although Tropical Storm Agatha left thousands homeless and with an urgent need for land, there is a great deal of which to be proud in 2010.

This letter serves to update you on our work and share our goals for the upcoming year. For those who have supported us this year and over prior years, *thank you*. As always, we hope that you keep San Lucas Mission close to your heart and that you continue to live in solidarity with the people of Guatemala.

2010 ACHIEVEMENTS

Montessori Center Completed and Open \$46,282

In January, a Montessori School opened to mark an innovative step towards advancing the *Colegio Parroquial*. Two dedicated teachers now guide children in classroom exploration while promoting responsibility, keen observation, and discovery. An array of specialized materials facilitates the 3-5 year-olds' absorption of math, language, culture, sensorial, and practical learning.



New Turf Field and Basketball Court..... \$44,524

Another installation for the school, a synthetic turf soccer field and new basketball court provide quality recreation space for 650 students. Using donated FieldTurf the *Colegio* now boasts the only field of its kind in the department (state) at academic institutions. Combined with a commitment to fitness, school staff strive to improve the health of the community's children.



Operating Room Upgraded..... \$31,018

In early 2010 builders, carpenters, electricians, and plumbers went to work to renovate the clinic's operating room. Installation of air conditioning, new lighting, tiled walls, surgical sinks, and airtight doors ensure the sterility and efficiency of the room. The construction of a ramp from the first to second floors will also ensure safe passage of patients from surgery to recovery wards.



Juan Ana Coffee Expansion \$58,945

In 2008 the Parish teamed with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to begin a 3-year expansion program to construct 3 new drying patios, new washing basins, a road leading up to the processing plant, and purchase of new machinery. The Parish's contribution so far has been almost \$60,000. This whole effort will allow for greater production and an ability to serve more small coffee growers.



To donate, visit www.sanlucasmision.org or send a check made out to "San Lucas Mission":
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First Steps of Agatha Recovery\$58,333

After mudslides left 300 families in need of relocation and caused \$165 million in crop losses, the Parish responded immediately. We donated land for a temporary shelter community. Through cooperation with NGO’s we have distributed kitchen kits, clothes, food, home supplies – all crucial first steps.



NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY EVENTS IN SAN LUCAS

Fiftieth Anniversary of Fr. Greg’s Ordination

In February, the Parish celebrated the 50th anniversary of Fr. Greg Schaffer’s ordination. People celebrated a beautiful ceremony to mark a lifetime of service, commitment to social justice, and community development.



Low Coffee Harvest

Dealt a blow by a surprisingly low coffee harvest, farmers blamed irregular weather patterns for the loss. Although Agatha damaged hundreds of acres of cropland, the community is hoping for a more fruitful harvest this year.



San Lucas Mission Opens Its Doors to Over 1200 Visitors

The Parish welcomed 1200 international guests and volunteers to learn about the social justice work of the Parish, share in the Maya culture, and grow in solidarity with Guatemalan counterparts.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2011

Completion and Projected Opening of Women’s Center

Under construction for several years now and with over \$142,000 already invested, the Parish hopes to finish the Women’s Center and provide a safe space for meetings and classes for community women.

Agatha – Long-Term Rebuilding

The Parish and collaborators must purchase land for 300+ displaced families. The task is mammoth. If we provide land, NGO’s and government can facilitate the formation of communities.

Parish School to be Renovated

The school, constructed in the 60’s, is due for renovation. Installation of metal window frames and construction of awnings and balconies will improve outdoor space for students to congregate.

Coffee Processing Expansion to Continue

Entering the third and final year of the Juan Ana Coffee expansion means the building of a new storage facility, completion of the road, implementation of new machines, and increased production.

Surgical Team Visits to Continue

After the upgrades to the operating room, the clinic hopes to continue the surgical service to the community already offered by Mercy Missions of Michigan and the Medical Missions Foundation.

Stay tuned to our website and keep abreast of our current news by signing up for our [newsletters](#). Share the stories of the community with family and friends. Keep our constant struggles at the forefront of your mind as we continue our commitment to social justice and integral human development.

Peace and Blessings,

SAN LUCAS MISSION

Chona Ajcot,
Director of Food Services

Chris Mitchell,
Volunteer Coordinator

Fr. Greg Schaffer

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December 2010

Dear Friends,

Chona Ajcot and Chris Mitchell have done a fine piece of work presenting to you some of the ways your generous gifts to the people of San Lucas have reached out and touched all in the community. Chona Ajcot, who has worked with the Mission of San Lucas since she was fourteen, takes a special interest in showing all the benefactors just how much their care and concern means to her people. She takes particular pride in seeing her own children taking advantage of opportunities she never had. Chona literally lights up when she speaks proudly of four year old granddaughter, Barbara, being a member of the first graduating class of the new Early Learning Center (Montessori). Chris Mitchell's work with Volunteers and Guests has brought blessings to all of our efforts in multiple and immeasurable ways.

One of the gifts of this time of year, Christmas time, is that it calls us to pause a moment to reflect on all of the blessings God continually showers upon us: blessings we receive today, blessings of yesterday as well as the blessings that will come tomorrow.

Besides dedicated individuals like Chona Ajcot directing and working in the actual integral development programs; there are generous volunteers like Chris Mitchell giving special talents and time to enhance the work of the local people. Together they use gifts from God and hard work to build the community. None of this is possible without the praying, caring and generosity of friends and family 'back home' whose trust in us and our efforts encourages us, gives us strength and supports us each and every step on the way toward the Integral Human Development that we all strive for. I would like to introduce to you at this time a selfless and dedicated group, the Friends of San Lucas Mission, who have taken upon themselves the difficult and unending effort to raise funds needed to keep this Integral Human Development Program alive and well, as well as strong enough to meet the many, diverse challenges placed upon and before the people of San Lucas. Their decision to reach out to the people of San Lucas in this way stems from classes in Catholic Social Teaching offered by their Parish Community of St. John Neumann in Eagan, MN. Their own prayer, reading, reflection and their selfless desire to 'teach as Jesus taught, do as Jesus did' in celebrating the gift of their Baptism strengthens them. Their visits to San Lucas bring us untold blessings. We hope and pray to bless them in return. They are Terri Wong, Arch Mrkvicka and Paul Leighton. Many of you have met them, no doubt. Many have heard from them in their effort to make it possible for us to continue moving forward. I hope many of you will have the opportunity to hear them lecture on Catholic Social Teaching and Integral Human Development. There is an excellent presentation. As we all celebrate our blessings at this Christmas time, allow me to share with you our blessings of Terri, Arch, and Paul.

May Jesus be close always,

Fr. Greg



The Friends of San Lucas Mission with Fr. Greg

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