

# *Friends of San Lucas*

January 12, 2017

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, we are undergoing a transition in leadership in the Friends of San Lucas and I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and talk a little about what the future holds for our work.

When Father Greg died in 2012 he had selected a group of people to carry his work and dreams for the people of San Lucas forward. The resulting transition, from 50 years of leadership centered in a single person, to an advisory council led by an Executive Director has been challenging and rewarding with strengthened leadership in San Lucas and continued faithful support in the United States, especially in Minnesota.

Arch Mrkvicka has led the transition with determination and commitment... and more than a few sleepless nights of prayer. He is ready to step back (but not away) and in the spring of 2016, the Advisory Council chose me to continue in his position. I began full-time work January 1<sup>st</sup> as Director and Arch will work half-time until June. After that, he will continue to volunteer with the Mission as well as serve on the Advisory Council. We will benefit from his energy and expertise for years to come.



I come to this work out of parish ministry, most recently as a lay minister in an Episcopal Church in Minneapolis, where my focus was on Youth and Social Justice Ministry. I had fallen in love with the land, culture and people of Guatemala on my first trip there in 1998 and then later meeting Father Greg and learning of the incredible work he was doing only deepened my dream of serving the people of that beautiful country. I first went to the Mission in 2008, and like so many of you, my life was changed. I began leading groups to work at the Mission and we developed a partnership with the village of Nueva Providencia, taking almost 15 different groups there in 7 years. In 2015 I began serving on the Advisory Council that supports the work of the Mission.

Our goal is to build on the great work that has been done over the last 55 plus years and keep focusing on the two most important goals of the Mission: empowering the people of San Lucas and providing life-changing experiences for our visitors and volunteers.



First and foremost is to strengthen and solidify our fundraising

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efforts so that we can continue to faithfully support our friends and partners in San Lucas. All of the great work of the Mission is built on the generosity of thousands of supporters. Without that continued generosity, our work cannot continue.

One of the most important lessons I learned in ministry was that the role of a leader is to ask, "What is God already doing here? And how can I help?" God is doing wonderful things in San Lucas and my job, OUR job, is to do all that we can to help continue that work.

I look forward with great anticipation to working alongside all of you, to continue to further the legacy of Father Greg, and to continue to walk in solidarity with the people of San Lucas, together.

In Christ,

Bill Peterson  
Executive Director  
Friends of San Lucas