

Dear Friends,

In keeping with the indigenous culture, the Yashalúm Association has the policy of accepting monetary gifts for birthdays and holidays from sponsors for their students with half of the gift going directly to the student and half into a common fund for an outing or sports event for all students. Recently, forty-nine of our students were able to go on a field trip to the Ecological Park, Sumidero Canyon, near the State Capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez. Their visit was made possible through the generosity of our sponsors who sent special gifts to their students during the course of the year. Here is a report of their experience.

~The Volunteers of MTF

### Trip to the Sumidero Canyon

The students were up and ready at 5 AM on June 18. The day began with a blessing and prayer by one of the catechists and member of the Board of Elders.

After prayer, the students boarded the Nissan pickups for the long trip. We stopped for breakfast three hours later in the City of San Cristóbal de las Casas. We enjoyed delicious ham sandwiches that had been prepared the night before.



Around noon, we arrived at Chiapa de Corzo, near Tuxtla Gutiérrez, to hire the boats for the river trip. The trip took three hours down the canyon river with steep walls on either side. A cloud burst hit us half-way through the trip. We were soaked before we could reach shore and take refuge in a thatched roof shelter. We returned to Tuxtla at about 5 PM for a wonderful meal of roasted chicken and arrived back in Yajalón at 9:30 at night.

The students were very happy to have been able to make the trip. Many said they had never been so far from home and that they learned a lot about the beautiful State of Chiapas from the guide who took us down the river.

The organizers of the trip were two parents and two of our graduate students. 49 junior high and high school students made the trip.

Special thanks to our sponsors who made the trip possible.