



Mission Teaching Foundation

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Visit www.missionteachingfoundation.org

Christmas 2011

Dear Friends,

In the US, we are already hearing the dire predictions of the destruction of the world on December 21, 2012, when the ancient Mayan calendar comes to an end. It might be interesting to note that the Mayans themselves are not in the least worried about these predictions. The poor among them have lived for centuries just worrying about living in the present - just concerned with survival.

With the Yashalum education program, came the possibility to look up and around, to look within and without and begin to believe in a future. It is interesting for us to note that all the scholarship students respond in basically the same way to the question: Why do you want to study? They all talk about wanting a better future, having a dignified life, being someone in life, being able to help family and community. This hope for a better future is especially marked among the Mayan women in the program.



When we asked them what they most wanted for Christmas, they came up with everything from a chapel at the Boys' Ranch to rebuilding the old dorms at Casa Santa Maria to getting more computers and better tutors. But when they came right down to it, they decided what they really need is more scholarships so that other young people can have the opportunity for a better future.

Along with sincere thanks for all your support, we at MTF want to ask you to help us recruit more sponsors. Maybe some of your family or friends would appreciate receiving a Christmas gift from you in the form of a scholarship given by you in their name. The hope, of course, is that they might want to renew the scholarship on their own the following year.

This Christmas, our students will be thanking God for their newfound hope. They will find in the Christ child a belief that, even against all odds, they will be able to transform their lives through education. By their sacrifices, they will be able to make the world a better place.

Have a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Dear Sponsors and Donors,

My name is Rosa Denisse Hernández Álvaro and I was born in the municipality of Yajalón of Ch'ol and Tzeltal Mayan parents.

I give thanks to God for allowing me to be a part of the Yashalum of St. James the Apostle Education Program. Its support during the years of my academic formation which included three years of high school and five years of college has made it possible for me to graduate with a university degree in biology. This program helps so many young people like me who have the strong determination to get ahead but do not have the necessary economic resources. Thanks to the scholarship program and its wonderful sponsors and donors, our dreams can come true.

After graduation, I came back to Yajalón to give my year of service to the community in return for the blessing of my education. I was able to work with the students at the girls' residence of Casa Santa María helping with computer skills. It was a very satisfying experience to be able to live with the young indigenous women. It was wonderful to be able to help others like myself in their desire to learn.

When the administrator of CSM took a leave of absence to have her baby, I was invited to take her place. What an experience! I was able to spend more time and get much closer to the students. I was able to understand their needs and the diversity of culture. With what I learned at college, I was able to encourage them to continue toward their goals. It was a real joy to see in their faces and gestures the joy each time they learned something new. They are very intelligent young women with a deep desire to get ahead in life.

I now begin a new adventure as I search for work that will allow me to learn more about my profession and to create my own future. I pray that I will be able to continue to help the very special program of Yashalum. I was given the roots of a great future. Now I need to continue to move forward with firm steps.

I will say good-bye for now, so very thankful for your support. I ask God to bless you every day and multiply His blessings for your family and your home.

Sincerely,

ROSA DENISSE HERNANDEZ ALVARO

College graduate of the Scholarship Program of Yashalum



Yes! I would like to support the work of Mission Teaching Foundation

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the education of Mayan indigenous students in Mexico.

- Sponsorship of a student** at __ \$25/month or __ \$300/year
- Gift Sponsorship of a student** at __\$25/month or __\$300/year
(Please include recipient information on a separate piece of paper.)
- Use my gift **where most needed.**

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for the amount of \$_____.

(Please make your check payable to **MTF**. Thank you!)

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____