

May 2011

We build friendships by sharing time together, getting to know one another. This month's note was written by Hector Manuel, the young man who is being sponsored through MTF by the parents of David Douglass, the young man who wrote last month's note. Having the opportunity to meet and spend time together has enriched both of their lives. We hope others will embrace the chance to visit Chiapas to build lasting friendships with our brother and sister indigenous.

Dear Friends,

I hope that as you receive this warm greeting, you are in good health together with family and friends.

I am very happy to share with you my reactions to the visit from my friend, David Douglass. My family and I were grateful that David took the time to visit us in our home and to get to know our village. His parents, Chris and Nieves, from Santa Rosa, CA, have been helping me with my education. He said that he appreciated the opportunity to visit and to learn about our Mayan culture. David also made the effort to visit several other villages and spend time with the people. He was impressed by the beautiful vegetation that is a part of our jungle area.



Hector Manuel and his father, Francisco, and his mother, Gloria

David helped all the scholarship students by giving us English classes. It was very helpful to hear the correct pronunciation of the words, since none of the local teachers are native speakers.

All of the students in the Yashalum program appreciated David's visit to the region. I was very fortunate to be a part of the experience and would like to invite more of the sponsors to come to Yajalón for a visit. The personal contact would help us to know each other better. Visitors would also be better able to understand life among our people and the desire that many of us have to get a good education.

Well, I say good-bye for now. I just wanted to let you know how happy I was to meet my friend, David. We hope that he can come again for another visit. He is always welcome in our homes.

I pray that God guides you and your family members safely on your journey.

Sincerely,

Héctor Manuel Mayo López

(High School Student living at the Boys' Ranch, Rancho Santiago Apóstol)

Note: MTF is planning a 7-10 day visit to Chiapas mid July 2011. Please contact us if you are interested in going at info@missionteachingfoundation.org or by calling Art and Julie Hoesterey, (480)814-7396.