Community Visited: Tierra Nueva II
Staff Person Responsible: Carrie Stengel
Date of Report: February 29, 2016
Date of Visits: January 10 and February 14, 2016
Cost of Visits: $32

Next visit: March 2 or 3 (crafts meeting), May

I. Community Members Present
February 14 meeting: Eluvia, Albertina, María, Paty, Clementina, Evelio, Gilberto, Moisés, Catarina, Paul

II. Photos and video
Photos of Guatemala representatives meeting hosted by UPAVIM – February 20-21, 2016. We had a great weekend at UPAVIM, gathering representatives from 7 of the 8 SP communities in Guatemala for reflection, shared worship and mutual support. We also learned a lot from the community organizing, school, and crafts project at UPAVIM this time.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/95562178@N02/albums/72157662725672673

Photos of the Pacific School of Religion delegation that visited Tierra Nueva 1 and Tierra Nueva 2 – January 23-24, 2016. The delegation visited numerous places in Guatemala and spent a weekend in TN1 and TN2, learning about the history and current struggles of the communities, spending time with families, and sharing in mass and an afternoon for cultural and ecumenical spiritual exchange.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/95562178@N02/albums/72157661677983034

III. Updates and Meeting Notes

- Next Skype Call with SJA: People were generally very positive about the last Skype call on January 17. When would SJA like to try to organize the next one? Some members of the committee in TN2 thought they were already regularly scheduled, so they have a schedule in the budget they drafted for the calls. The next one they have scheduled is April 17 (since we did not do one in February). We can adjust as needed, I think, just let me know.
- **George Wertin Scholarships and SJA Scholarships:** I gave the committee the agreement about the GW scholarships. I still need to receive the signed document to send to SJA.

- **Project reports 2015:** Project reports from 2015 are coming in and I will translate and send them as I receive them. I have received the reports from the women’s group, the crafts committee, and the scholarship committee.

- **Crafts Project:** We talked briefly about crafts at both my January and February meetings, but because we kept running out of time, I will try to schedule a meeting to specifically talk about crafts the first week of March. I gave TN2 the samples for potential new products that Nancy sent (child’s apron, heart ornament, etc.).

- **Pen Pals:** I gave TN2 the four letters that were sent. Committee members in TN2 were asking if the pen pals in TN2 have to be the same age and also asked if they can send a digital photo instead of printing one out.

- **Reporting in 2016:** All projects will hand in financial reports every 3 months to Maria during the meeting on the fourth Sunday of that month. If this cannot happen for some reason the reports will be given to Evelio the next day (Monday), so that the Sister Parish committee can prepare their reports for the parish meeting that Friday. Reporting to SJA and Sister Parish will happen at the end of the year, but may be formatted as a compilation of the monthly (narrative) and quarterly (financial) parish reports, if that would work okay for SJA.

- **SJA Retreat:** Does SJA need anything from TN2 for the retreat in April?

### IV. Necessary Follow-Up by SP Staff, Northern or Southern Community

- **TN2:** Resolve any questions about the committee bank account before switching to new account. Follow-up on pen pal exchange. Send narrative report for scholarship project in 2015.

- **SJA:** Consult with potential delegates and send feedback about 2016 and 2017 delegation schedule. Send Carrie information about any needs for the April retreat.

- **Staff:** Follow-up on 2015 delegation – delegation report, sharing photos with delegates, etc. Follow-up on pen pal exchange and all projects (scholarship narrative and Christmas party pending). Plan and prepare for crafts meeting in TN2 in March.

*Sister Parish exists to foster mutual understanding and commitment to peace and justice among people in the United States and Central America. This objective is pursued through intentional linking between churches and Christian communities in the United States and Central America. Delegations travel to the North and South with home stays as an essential aspect in enhancing awareness and understanding, and in nurturing closer relationships.*