Community Visit Report

Community Visited: Tierra Nueva II
Staff Person Responsible: Carrie Stengel
Date of Report: March 15, 2018
Date of Visits: March 10, 2018
Cost of Visits: $28

Next visit: April or May

I. Community Members Present
Scholarship students and the three students that graduated last year – Yoselin, Victor and Juan Carlos. We had a lunch to celebrate the graduation of the three students, since we were unable to do so last year. Rosario, Albertina, Miriam, Paul, Pedro, Francisca and Vidali were present for the committee meeting after the lunch. The committee has changed their meetings from Sundays to Saturdays, which may affect who can attend meetings regularly.
II. Tierra Nueva II and Sister Parish News

- **Representatives Meeting** – Members of Sister Parish communities in Guatemala will gather for their bi-annual meeting April 14-15. The meeting will take place in San Andres Itzapa. This is a time to share fellowship, support each other and provide leadership and input for Sister Parish, Inc.

III. Meeting Notes

- **Delegations** –
  - **South to North** – Thanks again to everyone that helped with and participated in the South to North. I hope to get together with Pedro and Olga soon to do an evaluation.
  - **North to South August 10-20, 2018** –
    - **10 delegates** – I confirmed that 10 people from SJA are coming.
    - **Invitation** – I mentioned that some from TN2 would be invited to join us Tues-Thurs and that I could share more details soon.
    - **Activities** – We started talking about activities that TN2 would like to propose for the delegation. There are certain activities that we now will be on the schedule (mass, committee meeting, welcome, and good-bye party, for instance). The committee also suggested games and fun activities, a visit to a park or ecological site, and an activity with the youth group and scholarship students. We are also excited to hear ideas and suggestions from the delegates.

- **Scholarship Program** – The scholarship program is continuing to function, even though some of the students have not been paid for last year due to the account issue. The committee decided to use the money received recently to pay for this year as they go, rather than canceling the debt from 2017.

- **Pen Pals** – We reviewed the needs for the pen pal program. We need 3 more children in TN2 and 2 more at SJA.

- **Prayer Partners** – The person in charge of the prayer partners program was not there when we talked about this point. I mentioned that the delegation could be a good time to get caught up, if not before then.

- **Crafts** – The TN2 craft committee has the new order and we are confirming the 2017 order that hopefully will be finished by August 10. SJA has sent the needed funds.

- **Bank account issue** – The TN2 committee bank account remains blocked. Although we thought the bank had received all necessary paperwork, they now require more. There could be more lawyers’ fees. The committee is looking into different options.

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

- **TN2**: Coordinate with bank to release funds in account. Prepare report on what is left in the account and outstanding debts so that the committee can decide
how to cover further fees associated with banking issue. Prepare craft order by August 10. Prepare for August delegation. Find 3 more pen pals 8-9 years old.

- **SJA**: Continue preparations for the North to South delegation. Send South to North feedback to Carrie. Find 2 more pen pals for Sofia and Asucena.

- **Staff**: Follow-up on bank account issue. Follow-up on pen pals, prayer partners, etc. as needed. Do evaluation of South to North delegation with Pedro and Olga and then combine with SJA feedback. Prepare for August delegation.

*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.*